

Quilted Foil

Texture is experienced by touching, feeling, listening and tasting. New materials stimulate senses to react to cold, heat, the softness of rubber, roughness of cement, sandpaper and corrugated cardboard. Music, Jell-O and many more everyday items create textures in new ways. Quilted foil looks soft, but is firm to the touch, slick and sharp.

Tooled metal has had many applications over the years. Tin ceilings, popular in mid-19th to early 20th century American buildings, roofs used in tropical climates, decorative lanterns and ornaments from Mexico - all of these are great examples of functional tooled metal.

Grade Levels 5-12

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Process

1. Cut a 12" square of tracing paper. Measure in 2" from each side and draw a 10" square. Sketch your design within this square. A traditional quilt design is either geometric or a series of repeated illustrations. Keep the design simple and basic.
2. Measure and cut a 12" x 12" foil square from the roll of foil. For a clean cut, use a paper cutter. It will not harm the cutter and will actually sharpen the blade.
3. Place the foil over a 12" x 12" foam or rubber pad; then place the tracing paper pattern over the foil. It helps to tape all three items together. Trace over the pattern with a ball point pen or dull pencil to impress the design onto the foil. Sharp tools will tear the foil. For clean lines, press slowly and firmly. Remove the paper and tape. Look at both sides of the foil. Decide which side to use. The top is called debossed because the lines are below the surface of the foil. The back is embossed because the lines are above the surface of the foil. Either side is fine to work with. It is simply a matter of artist preference.
4. Complete the design by using the rubbing plates, embossing tools and other free-form methods to connect areas of the pattern. To use the rubbing plates, place the plate between the pad



Materials

[Blick Tracing Paper](#), 12" x 18", 50-sheet pad (10609-2016), need one sheet per student

[Fiskars® Bent Scissors](#), (57012-1008), need one per student

[Blick Economy Graphite Pencils](#), (20302-2009), need one per student

[18" Wood Ruler](#) with brass edge (55425-1018), need one per student

[Two-Toned Tooling Foil](#), 38-gauge, (60504-4050), 12" x 25-ft roll, cut to 12" x 12" pieces, need one piece per student

12" x 12" piece of firm foam or rubber

[Roylco® Rubbing Plates Sets](#), select a variety of textures (61112-3000)

[Paper Stumps](#), set of 12 (22943-1412), need one per student

[Palmer™ Glass Stain Paint Pots](#), 12-color set (02919-0129), share one set between 2 students

[Reeves® Brushes](#), set of 144 flat and round (06004-1002), share across classroom

[10" Embroidery Hoop](#) (66906-1010), need one per student

Optional Materials

[Ten Seconds Studio® Embossing Tools](#) (60516-)

Process, continued

and the foil where you wish to add texture. Use a blending stump to rub and stretch the foil over the plate. Stumps also burnish and smooth areas. They force parts of the design to separate and lift areas for added depth. Check the tooling on the front and back as it is worked. Keep the foam pad under the foil at all times. Repeated work with the stumps clarifies areas of the design.

5. Once the design is complete, apply Palmer Glass Stain Paints to the surface of the foil. This paint will adhere to the foil and look like colored glass when set in the very low tooled parts of the design. Glass paint is non-toxic and cleans with soap and water. HINT: Cut each pot free from the other pots. They are top-heavy and spill when hooked together.
6. When the paint is dry (30-40 minutes), insert the artwork into a 10" embroidery hoop. Separate the outer hoop from the inner hoop by loosening the screw and pulling apart. Place the foil over the inside embroidery hoop. Carefully stretch the foil over the edge of the inside hoop, making certain the artwork is centered over the hoop. Slip the outside hoop over the foil. Work the hoop down over the foil until it is even with the inner hoop. Tighten the screw. Use the screw to hang with cord.

Options

- Use a macrame ring. Trim corners off.
- Mount the quilted foil on a matboard or piece of wood.

National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

5-8

Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experience and ideas

9-12

Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques and processes they use

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

5-8

Students use subjects, themes and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artwork.

9-12

Students describe the origins of specific images and ideas and explain why they are of value in their artwork and in the work of others.

Content Standard #4 — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

5-8

Students analyze, describe and demonstrate how factors of time and place (such as climate, resources, ideas and technology) influence visual characteristics that give meaning and value to a work of art.

9-12

Students differentiate among a variety of historical and cultural contexts in terms of characteristics and purposes of works of art