

Oooo! Shiny! Metalwork - 101

FORMING AND 'ENRICHING' METAL ITEMS:

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|----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| a. CASTING | } | METHODS |
| b. ETCHING | | |
| c. PLATING | | |
| d. SOLDERING | | |
| e. REPOUSSÉ (HAMMERING!) | | |
| f. TURNING | | |
| g. BENDING/FOLDING | | |
| h. 'RE-PURPOSED' PLUMBING PARTS | } | SOURCES |
| i. RIVETS/EYELETS/STUDS | | |
| j. DECORATIVE FASTENERS | | |
| k. SOURCES OF:
PLATE/BAR/ROD | | |
| l. BRONZE POWDER, ALUMINUM, ETC. | } | MISCELLANEOUS: |
| m. SHARPENING | | |
| n. POLISHING | | |
| o. TAPS AND DIES | | |

WHERE TO GET:

- MICRO-MARK {www.micromark.com}
- MOUSER ELECT. {www.mouser.com}
- RADIO SHACK {www.radioshack.com}
- K&S ENG'R'G. {www.ksmetals.com}
- AMERICAN SCIENCE & SURPLUS {www.sciplus.com}
- JO ANNE CRAFT {www.joann.com}
- MICHAELS CRAFT {www.michaels.com}
- MCMaster-CARR {www.mcmaster.com}
- HOME DEPOT {www.homedepot.com}
- LOWE'S HOME IMPR. {www.lowes.com}
- ACE HARDWARE {www.acehardware.com}
- FIRE MOUNTAIN GEMS {www.firemountaingems.com}
- LEATHER FACTORY {www.tandyleatherfactory.com}
- THE FAUCET SHOPPE { www.thefaucetshoppe.com }
- ONLINE METALS .COM { www.onlinemetals.com }
- HEICO FASTENERS { www.heicofasteners.com }
- TRADITIONAL PAINT OR ART SUPPLY STORES

METALS -- APPLICATIONS:

- ❖ Easy & common uses of wire in costuming include wire boning for corsets, hoop skirts, bustle bases etc. Other fairly easy things using wire are soldering frames, (i.e., for wings).
- ❖ Bending strips of metal & soldering them into shapes can be done with a bit of elbow grease (see crown example).
- ❖ Hammering sheet or plate metal to form it for things like belt buckles is more elaborate, but is more a matter of having the nerve to start swinging a hammer than it is of being built like Hulk Hogan...
- ❖ Engraving &/or etching metal props can also add a level of detail that can make a costume really pop.
- ❖ Some more advanced metal techniques include casting for things like: buttons, pins, rank insignia, medals, etc. (see button & pin examples). Usually things like this can be found objects that are altered, but sometimes you just can't find that exact thing you need for a costume & casting what you can't find is an expeditious solution.
- ❖ Turned metal is another advanced method that can make interesting accessories for a costume. A lathe is the best tool for this, but a drill press or even a clamped power drill can work well. Turned metal rods can be made into: bun sticks, wands, scepters, staffs, canes, etc. (see bun stick example). You can do quite a bit to a spinning metal rod using just a metal file or rasp, and some sandpaper.
- ❖ A grinding wheel and/or belt sander can sculpt metal as well as wood—just more slowly. But they're really useful.
- ❖ Rivets, eyelets, grommets, snaps, & studs are also easily set with a hammer or fancier setting machine. When doing historical costumes it's hard to do without eyelets; using metal eyelets makes things a lot easier than hand-sewn eyelets.
- ❖ Special fasteners--nails, brads and screws--can spiff up relatively mundane objects.
- ❖ 'Re-purposed' plumbing fixtures and parts can become really great brass and chrome 'steampunk' props.
- ❖ "Bronze powder" and similar metallic powders, useful for a metallic finish on epoxy or resin castings.

Good sources for metal working supplies, materials and tools:

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| MOUSER ELECT. { www.mouser.com } | } | SMALL SCALE METAL-WORK AND ETCHING |
| RADIO SHACK { www.radioshack.com } | | |
| MICRO-MARK { www.micromark.com } | | |
| K&S ENG'R'G. { www.ksmetals.com } | | |
| AMERICAN SCIENCE AND SURPLUS { www.sciplus.com } | } | MEDIUM-SCALE |
| HOME DEPOT { www.homedepot.com } | | |
| LOWES { www.lowes.com } | | |
| ACE HARDWARE { www.acehardware.com } | } | SHOP AND INDUSTRIAL SCALE |
| HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS { www.harborfreight.com } | | |
| J & L INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY / MSC METALWORKING { www1.mscdirect.com } | | |
| MCMaster-CARR { www.mcmaster.com } | | |
| GRAINGER INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY { www.grainger.com } | | |