

# Oooo! Shiny! Metalwork - 101

## FORMING AND 'ENRICHING' METAL ITEMS:

- |                                  |   |                |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 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:<br>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](http://www.micromark.com)}
- MOUSER ELECT. {[www.mouser.com](http://www.mouser.com)}
- RADIO SHACK {[www.radioshack.com](http://www.radioshack.com)}
- K&S ENG'R'G. {[www.ksmetals.com](http://www.ksmetals.com)}
- AMERICAN SCIENCE & SURPLUS {[www.sciplus.com](http://www.sciplus.com)}
- JO ANNE CRAFT {[www.joann.com](http://www.joann.com)}
- MICHAELS CRAFT {[www.michaels.com](http://www.michaels.com)}
- MCMaster-CARR {[www.mcmaster.com](http://www.mcmaster.com)}
- HOME DEPOT {[www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)}
- LOWE'S HOME IMPR. {[www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com)}
- ACE HARDWARE {[www.acehardware.com](http://www.acehardware.com)}
- FIRE MOUNTAIN GEMS {[www.firemountaingems.com](http://www.firemountaingems.com)}
- LEATHER FACTORY {[www.tandyleatherfactory.com](http://www.tandyleatherfactory.com)}
- THE FAUCET SHOPPE { [www.thefaucetshoppe.com](http://www.thefaucetshoppe.com) }
- ONLINE METALS .COM { [www.onlinemetals.com](http://www.onlinemetals.com) }
- HEICO FASTENERS { [www.heicofasteners.com](http://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. { <a href="http://www.mouser.com">www.mouser.com</a> }                                      | } | SMALL SCALE METAL-WORK AND ETCHING |
| RADIO SHACK { <a href="http://www.radioshack.com">www.radioshack.com</a> }                                |   |                                    |
| MICRO-MARK { <a href="http://www.micromark.com">www.micromark.com</a> }                                   |   |                                    |
| K&S ENG'R'G. { <a href="http://www.ksmetals.com">www.ksmetals.com</a> }                                   |   |                                    |
| AMERICAN SCIENCE AND SURPLUS { <a href="http://www.sciplus.com">www.sciplus.com</a> }                     | } | MEDIUM-SCALE                       |
| HOME DEPOT { <a href="http://www.homedepot.com">www.homedepot.com</a> }                                   |   |                                    |
| LOWES { <a href="http://www.lowes.com">www.lowes.com</a> }  |   |                                    |
| ACE HARDWARE { <a href="http://www.acehardware.com">www.acehardware.com</a> }                             | } | SHOP AND INDUSTRIAL SCALE          |
| HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS { <a href="http://www.harborfreight.com">www.harborfreight.com</a> }                 |   |                                    |
| J & L INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY / MSC METALWORKING { <a href="http://www1.mscdirect.com">www1.mscdirect.com</a> } |   |                                    |
| MCMaster-CARR { <a href="http://www.mcmaster.com">www.mcmaster.com</a> }                                  |   |                                    |
| GRAINGER INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY { <a href="http://www.grainger.com">www.grainger.com</a> }                     |   |                                    |