

## 10 TIPS FOR METAL STAMPING

Follow these 10 tips to help perfect your metal stamping technique. For more tips, free online video tutorials, diy ideas, tools, supplies and more - visit us at [www.Beaducation.com](http://www.Beaducation.com)

1

### PRACTICE, PRACTICE PRACTICE

DO NOT expect to be good at this on your first try, or second, or third or 10th! Know that you WILL jack up 3-5 blanks, just put that into your practice budget and keep those jacked blanks around for further practice.

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### STABLE WORK SURFACE

Make sure you are on a stable table and preferably over a table leg. If your surface isn't stable, your stamp will jump and you will get a doubled or shadowed impression.

3

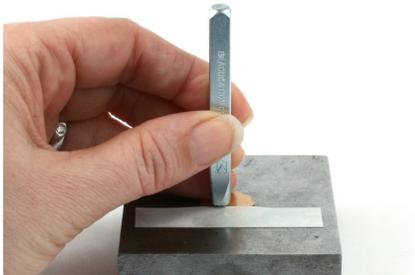
### PROPER RESISTANCE

Make sure you have the proper resistance under your blank and are using a bench block that is at least 2"x2" by .75" thick and even bigger is better.

4

### USE TAPE TO HELP LINE UP YOUR LETTERS

Use stamping tape to help stamp in a straight line. Lay the tape on your blank (and use it tape your blank down if you wish) and place the top edge of the tape where you want the bottom of your letter to be. Place your stamp on your blanks and lightly scoot it down (without scratching the metal) until you feel the bottom of the letter bump up against that top edge of the tape, then stamp. This will help you impress your letters in a straight line (yay!).



5

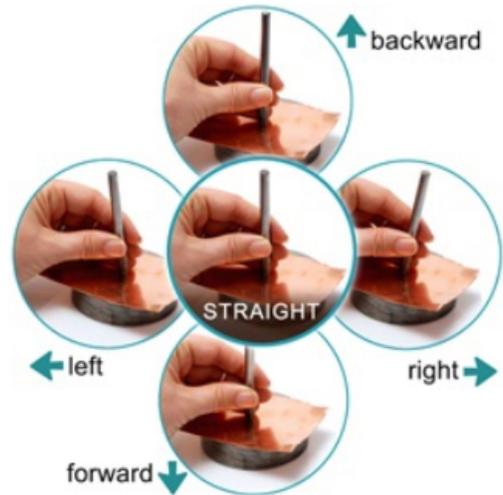
### PUMP UP THE POWER

Some stamps, like larger ones or ones with a lot of detail, need more muscle behind them when stamped. Consider moving to a 2lb hammer for those. You will be surprised how much this helps!

**6**

## TILT N' TAP METHOD

For stamps with a lot of detail, try the Tilt n' Tap method. Start by holding the stamp straight and giving it one strong whack. Without moving the stamp from that position, slightly tilt it to the right and hit again. Now slightly tilt it towards yourself and hit again. Continue in this manner, in a circular motion, until you complete the circle then hit the stamp again while straight. The tilts should be very slight (the picture is a bit over exaggerated).

**7**

## PRACTICE DESIGN

Use aluminum foil tape (found at the hardware store) to practice design. Lay the tape on a wooden surface and press the stamp into the tape or tap the stamp lightly. This is great for practicing layout and design. Do not lay the tape on your bench block and then stamp your stamps into it. The tape is so thin that this is essentially like stamping straight on to the bench block and this could ruin your stamps and your block. If you are wanting to practice how hard to stamp and such, use a practice piece of metal for that, at least 24g in thickness.

**8**

## ERGONOMICS

Practicing good ergonomics will result in better looking jewelry and a happier body. The way you hold the hammer, the way you sit the way you hold the stamp, they all matter. If you are struggling to get a good impression try moving your chair higher or lower or try standing.

**9**

## USE QUALITY STAMPS

Quality stamps make a difference. They will generally stamp better, provide a better impression and be easier to position.

**10**

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