

South American Jewelry

Create pendants inspired by ancient South American artworks and using metal embossing techniques.

ARTventures

... at home!



Tairona culture, Columbia, *Vulture-Shaman Effigy Pendant with Necklace in Beak*, about 1000—1500, tumbaga (gold and copper alloy). The Harold W. and Mary Louise Shaw Foundation. L8.2001.59

Materials Needed

- gold toned or plain aluminum tooling foil, 38 gauge, approx. 3" x 3"
- heavy cardstock paper, 4" x 6", 2-3 sheets
- cardboard sheet, approx. 6" x 6"
- string, approx. 3ft.
- popsicle stick
- hole puncher
- hot glue gun
- hot glue sticks
- scissors



Optional

- plastic gems or beads
- sharpie markers, black, and colors
- aluminum foil (use approx. 3-4 layers taped together as a substitute for tooling foil)



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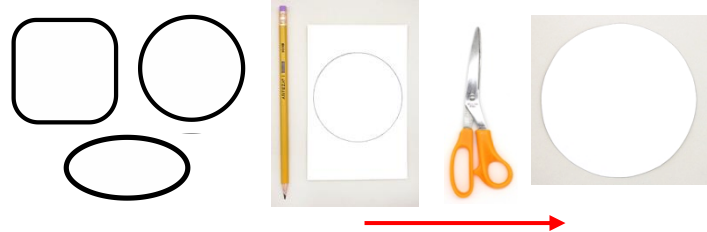
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Step 1

Make several small sketches of pendants. Start each design with a basic, rounded geometric shape (ex: circle, rounded rectangle, oval, etc.), then fully fill that shape in with a design. Once final shape and design are selected, draw the pendant at the size desired on cardstock (between 2" x 2" and 3" x 3" is recommended).

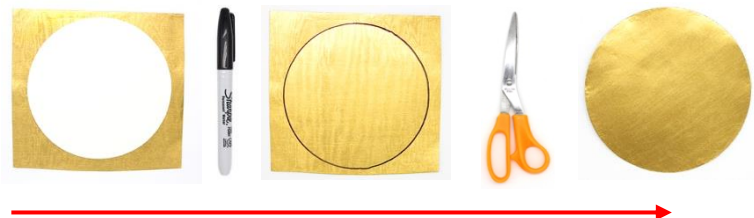


Helpful hint: for best circle shapes, trace the inside of a roll of masking tape. Designs can include geometric patterns, or animals like a bird or lizard, or flowers, a face, the sun, etc.



Step 2

Cut pendant shape out from cardstock paper. Use cardstock shape as a template to trace onto tooling foil. Cut shape out from tooling foil.



Note: use scissors to round off any sharp metal edges on tooling foil shape.

Step 3

Place tooling foil on cardboard. Smooth and flatten out any bumps or wrinkles by firmly sliding edge of popsicle stick across both the front and back sides of the foil. Repeat as necessary.



Step 4

Use a pencil to draw designs.

Note: keep cardboard under foil while drawing. Press firmly for deeper lines, but not too hard as that may tear foil.



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Helpful hint: to create extra dimension or depth, flip tooling foil over and shade in only those areas desired to be more dimensional (on the backside). Flip foil back over so that front is showing and shade in areas surrounding the newly dimensional shape. This will push those areas further back into the background. Ex: to create a spherical shape, draw a circle, flip foil, shade inside that circle, then flip foil back and shade areas around the circle.



Helpful hint: use a variety of textures to add more detail to the pendant (ex: dotting, hatching, triangles, circles, etc.).



Note: many unwanted marks can be erased by smoothing foil with popsicle stick. Extra pressure with stick may be required.

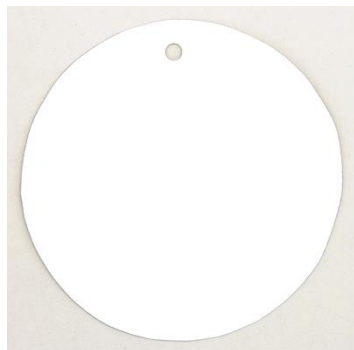
Step 5

Place finalized foil onto a new cardstock sheet larger than the foil shape (approx. 4" x 4" or larger). Draw any desired shape around foil, leaving at least a ½ inch margin around the foil. Cut cardstock shape out and punch a hole into the top for string. Hot glue foil to hole-punched cardstock.



Note: use caution and proper supervision when using hot glue.

Note: use heavy cardstock as backing to best protect foil from being bent. This backing also serves as means to more easily punch a hole for string.



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Step 6

Decorate pendant by drawing designs and coloring with markers. Hot glue plastic gems and beads for details if desired. Add a string through the top hole of pendant and tie ends with a double knot to secure.



Helpful hint: color the pendant's cardstock frame to best match pendant's colors. Start with lightest colors and then add darker colors.

Note: use caution and proper supervision when using hot glue.



Resources

[Tairona Figure Pendant from The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)

[Moche Pair of Ear Ornaments with Winged Runners from The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)

[Tairona Bird Pendant from The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)

[More metal embossing techniques](#)

ARTventures is supported by a generous gift from Rosie and Marvin Kidd

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Questions about or ideas for ARTventures? Email edu@daytonart.org