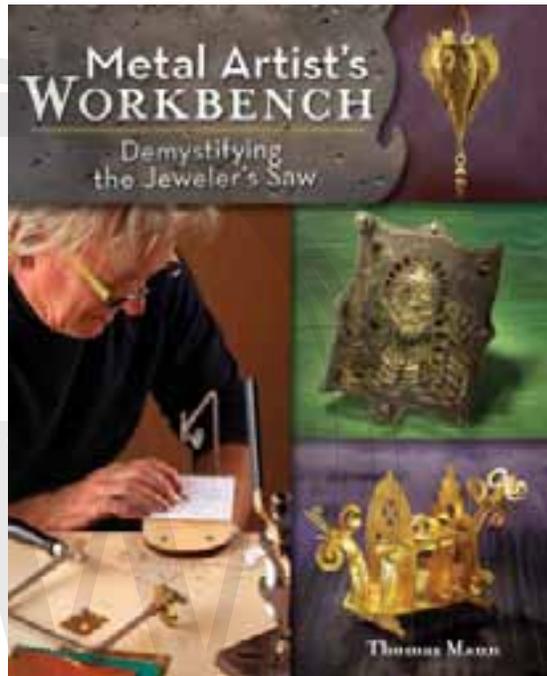


## Project: Calder Spoons

In this excerpt from Thomas Mann's METAL ARTIST'S WORKBENCH, you'll learn to create a personal piece of art as SPOONS! Learn the techniques, then have ideas for whatever you want to create in the future.

To learn more about or purchase Metal Artist's Workbench by Thomas Mann, click here.

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# Calder Spoons



There are no words that can adequately describe the profound effect that Alexander (Sandy) Calder delivered to this young artist. He was, and continues to be, an inspiring force in my life, along with Joseph Cornell, Max Ernst, Marcel Duchamp, and many others. But Sandy's influence over me was due to more than just who he was as an artist. His lifestyle and career path provided a model for me to follow.

One of the most intriguing things I learned about his home life, was that he made most of the cooking utensils that his wife used in their country kitchen. Some were made of wire, others of aluminum sheet. Though they looked similar, there were no patterns; Calder always made them spontaneously. You can make a version of his wonderful utensils simply by using the patterns provided here. Look up Calder's work and check out the photographs of the Roxbury kitchen. You'll see these spoon shapes hanging all about the woodstove. Just imagine them spooning out a delicious soup!

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Calder Spoon pattern and rubber cement
- $\frac{1}{16}$ " (2mm) aluminum sheet, 4" x 6" (10cm x 15cm)
- jeweler's saw
- 2/0 saw blades
- bench pin
- inverted cone burr or triangular needle file
- rivet hammer
- planishing hammer
- sandbag or concave wood block
- bench vise
- towel
- steel bench block
- drill with no. 55 bit
- 16g copper rivets
- flush cutters
- $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13mm) diameter rotary files (optional)
- files



**1** Paste the patterns (two copies) onto a  $\frac{1}{16}$ " (2mm) aluminum sheet and saw out the spoon shapes. (Note: Cut one shape as a spoon and one as a fork.)



**2** Using an inverted cone burr, score a relief channel down the center of the handle.



**3** Remove the pattern paper and then texture the bowl portion with the ball peen head of your rivet hammer.



**4** Shape the spoon slightly using the peening head of a large planishing hammer while resting the spoon on a sandbag or concave wood block.



**7** Reposition the handle in the vise to squeeze it shut as you tighten the vise. I like to protect the handle form at this point by keeping it inside of a towel or scrub pad.



**8** Flatten the handle on a steel block, using the flat face of a hammer.



**5** Secure the handle in a vise, aligning the relief channel with the straight line of the jaws. Gently fold the exposed edge toward the vise surface.



**6** Gently collapse the fold further with the flat face of the planishing hammer.



**9** Add any further desired texture to the bowl and the handle, using the ball peen head of the rivet hammer.



**10** Drill no. 55 holes along the handle length. (I made four, but make as many or few as you like.)



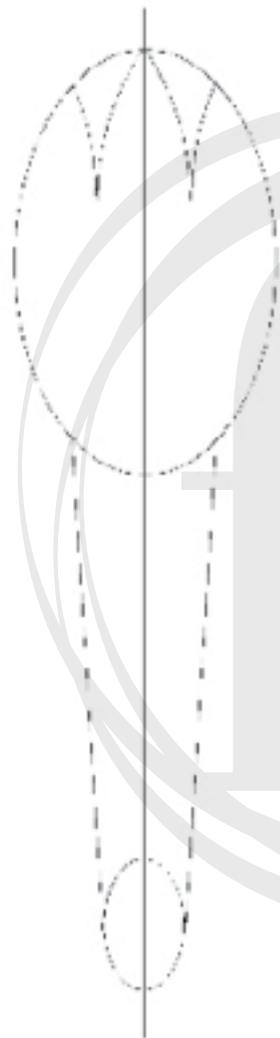
11 Insert 16g copper rivets.



12 Trim and set the rivets.



13 File all the edges.



Calder Spoon  
[enlarge 150% or as desired]



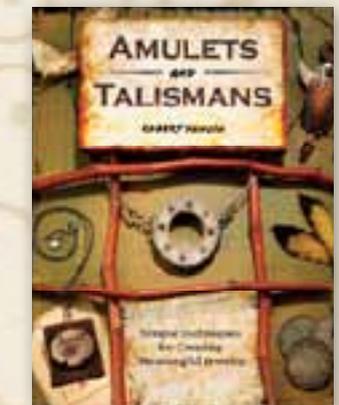
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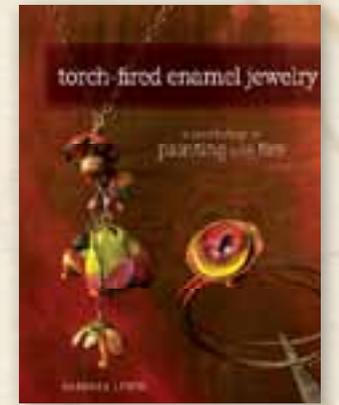
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