

Fig. 1

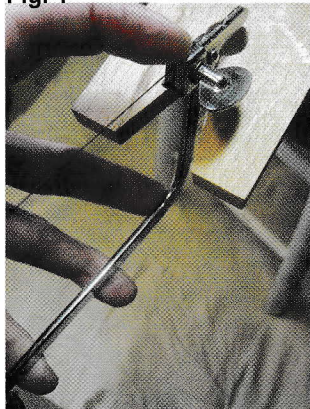


Fig. 2

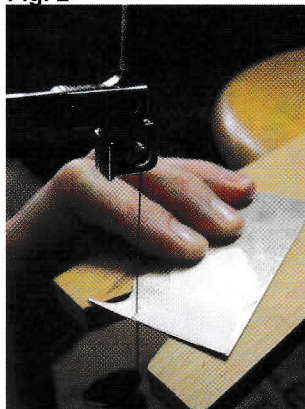


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



should feel smooth, indicating you have placed the blade in the saw correctly. It should be firm yet springy, as loose blades will break faster.

6. Before you begin cutting, lubricate the saw blade on the sides as well as on the teeth. Begin cutting. The saw should remain upright as you cut, and you should let the saw do the work for you (Fig. 2). The cutting action should be made on the DOWN stroke. Try to get a rhythm going while you cut, using the full length of the blade. When a blade jams, work it loose with an up-and-down motion while keeping the saw frame vertical. Tilting or twisting could cause the blade to break. Applying lubricant to a stuck blade can sometimes aid removal.

7. Prepare to turn corners before you reach them, turning on the down stroke.

8. Once the tag has been cut, use metal files to remove rough edges (Fig. 3). Use the full length of the file in one direction as opposed to quick passes. Use slow passes and light pressure for the first few cuts to remove truly rough edges. Once the file travels smoothly over the metal, apply more pressure. For best results don't move the file quickly; a long, slow, and smooth stroke produces a better finished edge.

9. Thoroughly clean the tag and prepare your work surface to add a message and designs.

Decorate the tag

Note: There are a variety of techniques to add more personality to your tag. For the most part, many of these techniques are permanent.

1. **Stamp:** To stamp your message or design, place the tag on the bench block on a solid surface. Place the metal stamp flush with the surface of the metal and use a quick, firm strike with the claw hammer to create the impression (Fig. 4). Soft strikes result in faint letters, and do-overs are always difficult. Before you strike the stamp, check and double-check the placement. It can be difficult to line up letters evenly. An easier approach is to use sporadic letter placement. **Note:** The tag might begin to curl up as you stamp. If it does, use the rawhide mallet to flatten the metal without marking it.

2. **Texture:** Give your tag more interest by using a variety of texturing techniques. If you're not sure what the outcome will be, experiment with different designs and textures on a scrap copper sheet.

- To create the look of fish scales, use the round end of the ball point pen and tap the back end of the tag where scales would normally appear.
- Make a hammered look throughout your design, leaving a blank field for a message.
- Use ornamental stamps to edge the tag with a variety of designs or select a simpler approach and leave the edge unadorned.
- To give your tag a matte finish, use steel wool. For a brilliant finish, polish with silver polishing cloth and plenty of Wenh®.
- To patina your tag and highlight the impressions you've made, follow the instructions for oxidizing listed in the tips section.

3. **Punch a hole** in the finished tag (Fig. 5). Attach the tag to your pet's collar with the split ring.

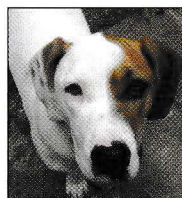
For questions concerning this project, contact designer Steven James of San Francisco, CA.

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Spoon the dog