

MAKING A STERLING SILVER PET ID TAG IS EASIER

than most people think and is a wonderful way to start working with metal. With a minimal amount of tools and a little patience, your pet can wear a stylish ID tag in a matter of hours.

TIPS:

- Polish the tag with a metal/silver cleaner, such as Wenol, available at kitchen supply stores, to protect the tag from tarnishing too quickly and to produce a sassy shine to the tag. Alternately, an oxidized (antiqued) tag highlights the stamped impressions and designs. To oxidize, many designers use liver of sulphur or silver black. However, a nontoxic alternative for oxidizing is to place the tag and two large hard-boiled eggs in a sandwich bag, crushing the eggs to expose the yolks. Seal the bag and allow it to sit at room temperature for several hours or overnight. Make sure the yolk is not touching the tag and, to ensure even coverage, be sure to flip the tag after a few hours. Once it has been oxidized, you can remove some of the patina with a jewelry polishing cloth and a touch of Wenol.
- One of the most frustrating aspects of this project is cutting the metal. On a good day, you'll cut quite a bit before the blade breaks. On a bad day, you might go through several blades. Remember the cutting process isn't a race and for the best results (smoother edges) build a consistent rhythm as you cut the metal.
- The edges of the tag must be filed smooth. In addition to filing the edges, tumble the tag if you're fortunate enough to have access to a tumbler with stainless steel shot. Use a solution of warm water and a drop of liquid dish soap for a few hours. No

tumbler, no problem—you'll need to use a little more elbow grease to file the edges.

- If you haven't used metal stamps before, purchase a piece of scrap copper plate and practice the stamping technique before applying messages to silver metal. It's a much more affordable way to practice and allows you to get used to the process of metal stamping.

Materials:

- **3-in.-sq.** piece of 20-ga. or 22-ga. half-hard sterling silver sheet*
- Bench block (and C-clamp if not included)
- Chasing hammer
- *Euro-Tool® Cut Lube* Blade Lubricant
- *Griffith Silver Black®* Oxidizing Solution**
- Tag template***
- Jeweler's saw (also referred to as a piercing saw) and bench pin
- Metal file
- Metal stamps for text and designs
- Rawhide mallet
- Size 2/0 saw blades
- Stainless steel split ring
- Two-hole punch
- Standard claw hammer
- Wenol® polish and polishing cloth

Additional Supplies:

- Ball point pen, glue stick, pencil, piece of paper, scrap copper sheet**, steel wool**

*Or larger, depending on the size tag required for your pet.

**Optional.

***Visit www.macaroniandglitter.com for printable templates.

For product information, see Sources of Supply on p. 107.

Instructions:

Make the tag

1. Determine the shape of the ID tag by tracing an existing tag or creating a new shape. Remember, the finished tag should have rounded edges.
2. Use the glue stick to attach template to silver sheet and press firmly. Position the template near the edge of the sheet to prevent material waste as you cut.
3. Use a C-clamp to attach the bench pin to the work surface and place silver sheet onto the bench pin horizontally.
4. Set up the saw by holding the handle in one hand and the saw blade in the other. Push the head of the saw against your bench pin (Fig. 1). Place the blade in the saw with the teeth facing you but pointing down, and tighten the blade into place.
5. To make sure the blade is running in the correct direction, gently run your fingers down the blade. It

