

El Pueblo Historical Monument

Tin Ornament At-Home Workshop

El PuebloTM de Los Angeles



This workshop is fun for all ages and created with things you may already have at home.
Create a homemade tin ornament out of cardboard, tin foil, and string.

Historic Facts about Tin Punching

Mexican Tin art is called *hojalata* (Ho-huh-la-tuh). Hojalata began in the 1500s. Tin art can be created using the scraps from other projects. Artisans will cut, punch, and score the tin to create intricate designs. Often the tin will be painted with lacquer giving it bright colors. Olvera Street was created as a Mexican marketplace, where artisans could share their skills with visitors. Some of the shops along Olvera Street still sell beautiful handmade hojalata art from Mexico today.

Materials

- Cardboard
- Tin Foil
- Glue
- Scissors
- Twine, string, or yarn
- Permanent Markers (various colors)
- Pen with cap

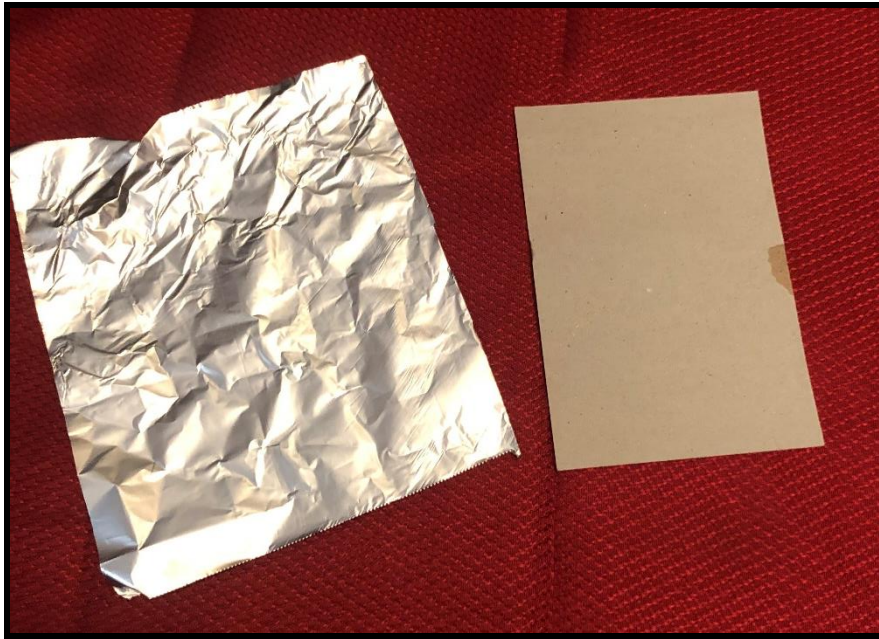
Steps/Instructions

Step One: Collect all your materials on a flat surface.

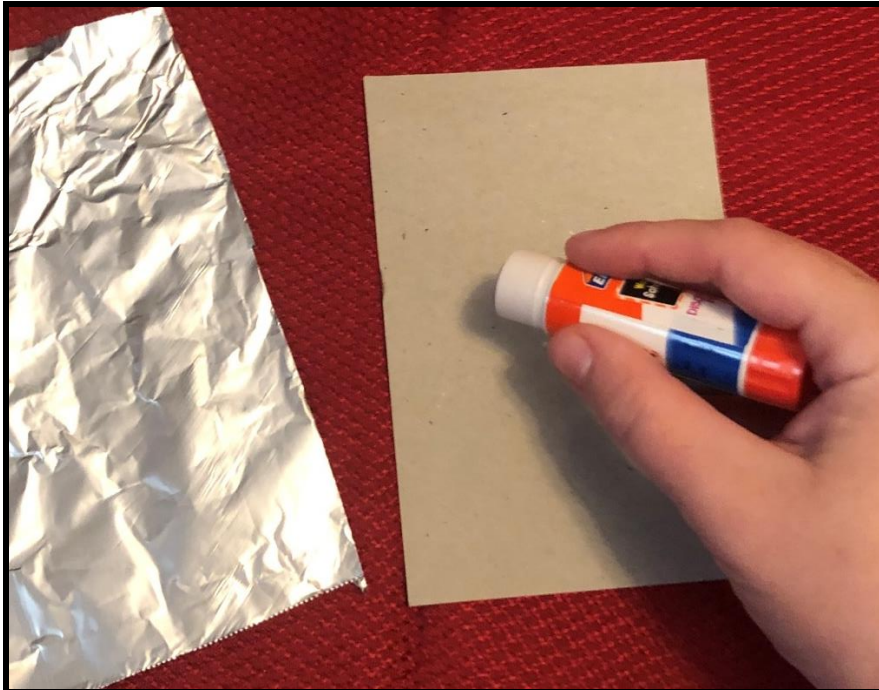


Hint: This is a great use for scrap or repurposed cardboard as it will not be seen on the ornament!

Step Two: Cut a small square of cardboard and a small section of tin foil about the same size.



Step Three: Place glue on entire surface of one side of the cardboard.

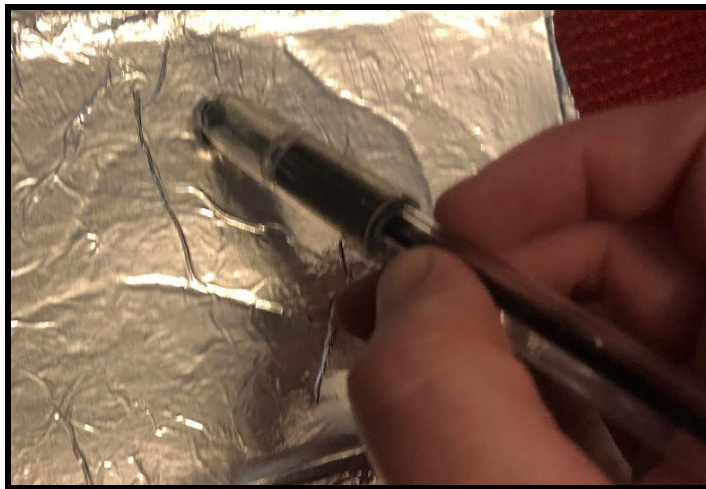


Step Four: Attach the tinfoil shiny side up on the cardboard.



*Hint: Don't worry if there are small wrinkles in the tinfoil.
This makes it look like it was hand pounded like in real hojalata art!*

Step Five: With a closed pen, carefully draw the outline of your ornament.

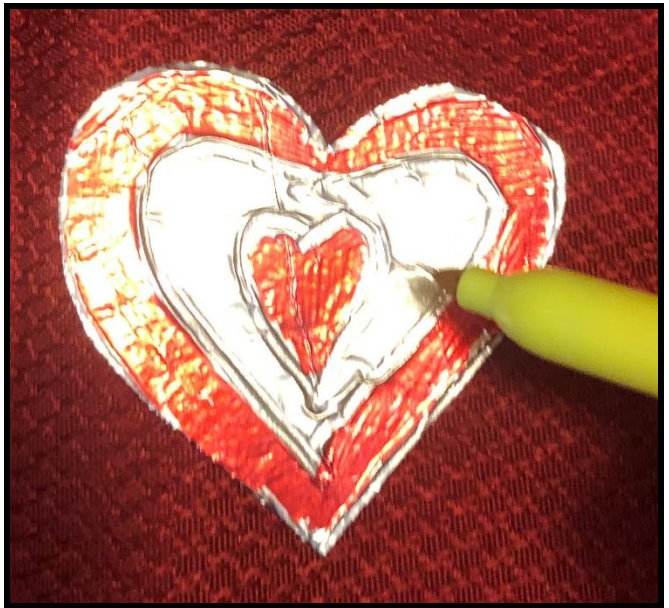


Step Six: Carefully cut along the outside of your shape.



Hint: With your closed pen you can now add more designs on your ornament if you would like.

Step Seven: With permanent markers color in your ornament.



Hint: Bright colors show up best, but give the marker ink few minutes to dry on the ornament!

Step Eight: With a hole punch, punch a hole in the top of your ornament.



Hint: Ask your adult family members for help with this step!

Step Nine: Cut a small piece of string or yarn.



Step Ten: Take the small piece of string or yarn, thread it through the hole you made, and tie a loop.



**Congratulations! You have created your very own beautiful and unique Hojalata Ornament!
Stay safe and we hope to see you on your next visit to El Pueblo Historical Monument soon!**