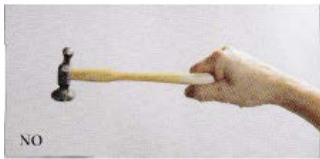


Chasing & Repoussé

Repoussé is the act of pushing the metal from the back so the front appears to have a low relief. It is a French word meaning “to push up or forward”. Chasing is the process of focusing and defining detail on the front. This includes lining, edging, and planishing.

Safety: eye protection, earplugs, hot pitch, ventilation, fatigue. Holding hammer and tools properly.



Tools: Repoussé Tools: repoussé punches, dapping punches

Chasing Tools: liners- straight, curved; undercutting tools; planishing tools

Pitch: melts at 250° F- 350° F, keep clean!

Metal: Copper, brass, bronze: The higher the copper content, the more malleable and easier to work with. Red brass is good. Silicon Bronze is very hard to work with.

Fine silver- if overworked or overheated can crack or develop an orange peel texture. Not good for thinner gauges like 24 ga.

Sterling silver- strong at 22 ga. and 24 ga. Can develop fire scale be careful with fire scale removal so you don't damage your detail.

Argentium- softer than sterling, stretches farther between annealing; can be heat hardened.

Gold- good.

Process: Transfer design, line, clean metal and flip, repoussé (starting with outside edge and working towards the center), clean metal and flip, chase detail, planish, repeat as many times as necessary.

Removal of pitch: burn off method- use torch, drip as much pitch back into bowl as possible, burn off remainder, rinse ash off (use a soft toothbrush), pickle in a separate pickle bath.

Not good for sterling (can cause fire scale), use good ventilation, use separate firebrick and tongs.

Repair: punching through metal, not deep enough marks

Making own tools: High Carbon Tool Steel, Water Quenching

1. Anneal: heat through, slowly cool; allows to grind, file, and sand steel.
2. Hardening: Heat and quench. Tool will be brittle at this point.
3. Tempering: heat end to a straw color.