



Silver Snowflakes

By Jane Kharade

Let it snow, with these beautiful silver pierced snowflakes. Inspired by traditional paper snowflakes but taken a step further, these will delight year after year and will become precious keepsakes.

What you'll need:

Silver Sheet 0.8mm 9x9cm CSA 080

Tools

Vallorbe Glardon Saw No 8/0
Frame and Blades & No 4/0

Needle Files 999 528

Emery Paper Grade 500 973 070

Steel Scriber 999 589

Metal Block 999 793

Power Tool Dremel 3000 999 3321

Polishing Mops / Lux Mini
Multi Polishing Bars 997 443

Drill Bit 1mm 971 120B

Jobbing Hammer 999 968

Double Sided Tape /
Fine Marker Pen 999 987A

Pale Blue 5mm Satin
Ribbon 1mtr 999 BAK

925 Stamp 999 APM



Step 1

Set The Template

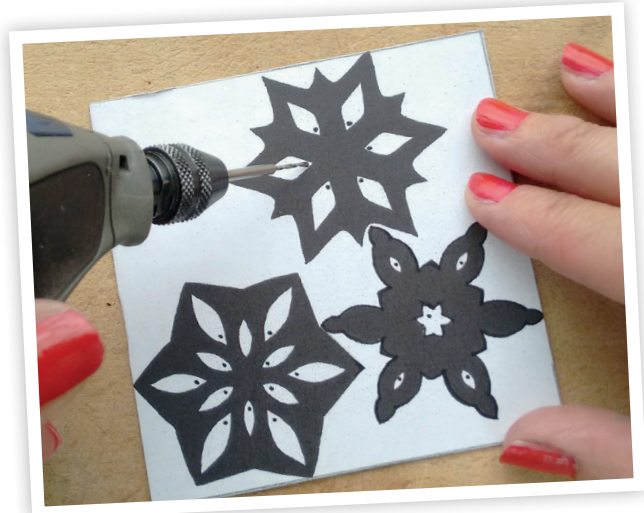
Using the snowflake templates provided or your own design, transfer the snowflakes to a 9x9cm square of 0.8mm silver sheet. Double sided tape is ideal, no need to remove the blue protective cover on the silver as it will make it easier to peel away the paper once you have finished piercing.



Step 2

Indent The Silver

Lay the silver on a metal block and mark out points on the snowflakes with a fine marker pen; a steel scribe is used to make indents in the silver, as this prevents the drill bit sliding across the silver when using a hand-held drill.



Step 3

Drill The Pilot Holes

Lay the sheet of silver on a wooden block and drill a pilot hole using a 1mm drill bit at each of the punched points.



Step 4 & 5

Cut The Snowflakes

Use a 4/0 saw blade to pierce out the snowflakes. Use the edge of the paper as a guide, and then carefully pierce out the other two snowflakes. For the more intricate internal sections of the snowflakes, pierce out using a finer saw blade such as an 8/0.



Step 6

Smooth Off The Edges

Use needle files to file away any rough saw marks and to tidy up the general shape of the snowflakes including the interior sections to create a crisp outline. For these small shapes, I found a square / triangle needle files particularly useful for this. File the out sides of the snowflakes at an angle and slightly round off the sharp edges which could otherwise be hazardous.



Step 7

Remove Scratches

Use emery papers starting from course through to fine to remove the scratches and create a high shine.



Step 8

Finish

Finish polishing the silver snowflakes by using polishing compounds and mop to create a mirror finish on the snowflakes. Keep each mop and compound separate from the other compounds, to prevent any cross contamination. Create a professional look to your snowflake set by stamping them with a 925 stamp and finish off by suspending from pale blue satin ribbon.

