



Festive stars and stamps

by Lydia Niziblian

No matter what your level of expertise, it is easy to make personalised Christmas decorations, tags and jewellery using this star shaped cutter and selection of stamps. You can use this project to make a variety of different designs!

Step 1

Cut out your star

Using the star cutter, cut a star to a size of your choice from the metal sheet of your choice. In the example we have used silver.



Step 2

Cut out your discs

With a disc cutter or piercing saw, cut out discs of metal slightly larger than the star you will be fixing to them. Use a ball pein hammer (997 V010) to give a hammered texture if you choose.

What you'll need:



Snowflake stamp	999 IA38
Snowman stamp	999 IA40
Christmas tree stamp	999 IA39
Lower and uppercase economy letterstamp sets 2.5mm	999 IA65 / 999 IA62
Number economy stamp set 2.5mm	999 IA59
Heart stamps	999 IA82
Artisan star cutter	997 1632
ImpressArt hole punch	999 IA68
Brass, copper and silver sheet (all 0.7-0.9mm)	860 252 / 860 232 / CSA 080
Jump rings	NVH H50
Brass head mallet	997 3135
Steel bench block and rubber block	997 V002 / 997 V003
Emery sticks	999 FAG
Needle files	999 527
Disc cutter	997 3603
Easy silver solder paste	PAT 021
Starter's soldering kit	999 096Q
Metal barrelling machine polisher	999 6005
Platinol oxidising solution	998 161A
Polishing / pendant motor	999 3203
Satin ribbon 3mm red	994 945



Step 3

Punch the hole

Use the hole punch to carefully make a hole in the top point near the edge of the circle, taking care to leave a good rim of metal. Mark a point with a felt pen to act as a guide.

Use an emery stick to smooth the edges and remove any burrs.



Step 4

Make your mark

Take the stamp of your choice, and use with a brass hammer to personalise the small star, either a Christmassy shape if it is going to be a gift tag, or a person's initials etc.



Step 5

Prepare for soldering

On the reverse of the star, evenly squeeze on a little silver solder paste. Make sure you don't apply the paste right to the edge of the star, as it will spread when heated.



Step 6

Solder the star to the base

Place the star, solder side down, onto the metal disc, and heat the whole piece until the star is securely soldered on.

Step 7

Add the jump ring

Thread a jump ring through the hole and solder shut. Quench and pickle the piece.

Step 8

The finishing touches

Paint oxidising solution onto the stamped design, and use a polishing or pendant motor to clean away the excess solution. Finish in a tumble polisher if desired.



Step 9

Ready to gift

String with ribbon and hang on the Christmas tree, use as a tag on a special present, or put on a chain as a pendant.

Top tip: Try using multiple graduating stars for a stacked pendant, stamp with children's initials, or add a set stone of your choosing.

