

Materials Workshop

Hammering, Steel Wool and Buffing

By Mary Hettmansperger

Finishing the edges of Metal does not have to be a lesson in files. There are several ways to create smooth soft edges when using metal sheeting in jewelry, sculptural work and book arts. Any time metal sheeting is used in your Artwork, this method can simplify the finishing process. Steel wool is my go to edge application unlike a file it creates a smooth edge not a sharp one. Different grades of steel wool will give you a variety of results. Larger numbers are courser and smaller numbers are fine grade. Buffing wheels, polishing clothes, wet and dry sand papers all can leave the surface of metal and the edges smooth.

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