

Family Art from Home

Atomic Needle Inspired Embossing

by Harley Kirschner

This project is inspired by Atomic Needle a sculpture by Tony Price, located in the West Sculpture Garden. This sculpture is made from stacked pieces of metal collected from Los Alamos Labs. In this project you will use embossing foil to replicate the metal surface and also recreate the textures you see on the piece.

Supplies Needed

- embossing foil (also called tooling foil)
- mechanical pencil or dull regular pencil or stylus
- extra fine sharpie
- fine or thick sharpie
- scissors
- notebook or magazine
- cardboard piece that is narrower than the width of your foil (mine is approximately 4"x6")
- paper towel or dry rag

Note: Tooling Foil can be purchased using the following links:

<https://www.michaels.com/amaco-artemboss-metal-foil-sheet-9in-by-12in/D256531S.html>

<https://www.dickblick.com/items/pure-metal-tooling-foil-12-x-10-ft-aluminum/>

How to do it

Step 1

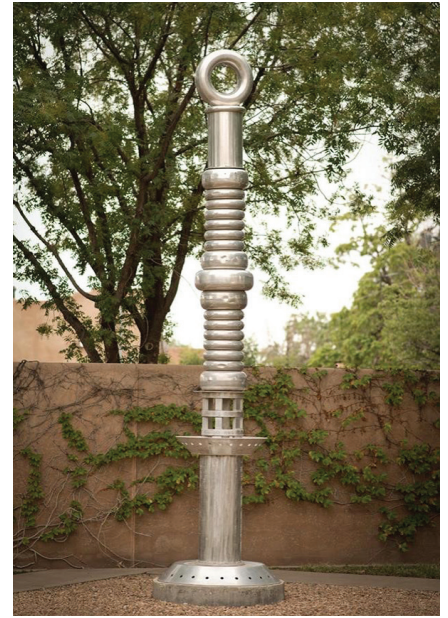
Cut a piece of foil that will be large enough to fold over your cardboard.

Step 2

If your foil is differently colored on each side, place your foil upside down on your notebook or magazine. Skip this step if it is the same color.

Step 3

Using your pencil or stylus, draw your impression of the *Atomic Needle* (see image) on the rear of your foil (mine is gold on one side but it doesn't make a difference). Draw the outline first. Next, fill in any areas you want to appear 3-dimensional. In addition to the tip of your pencil, the eraser is useful for embossing larger areas.



Tony Price, *Atomic Needle*, ca. 1980
Recycled stainless steel and aluminum
Albuquerque Museum, gift of Michael
Henningesen and family



Step 3



Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104
505-243-7255 • cabq.gov/museum

ONE
ALBUQUE
RQUE arts & culture

Step 4

Flip over your embossing. Wrap your foil embossing around your cardboard piece to create a sturdy backing.

Step 5

Outline any areas that you want to recede using the tip of your pencil/stylus and your eraser. I outlined the entire *Atomic Needle* and then used my eraser around my outline.

Step 6

Use your extra fine sharpie to fill in detail areas, such as small openings or indentations in the sculpture.

Step 7

Fill in the background with your fine or thick sharpie. Using your paper towel, rub some areas of the background to reveal the foil. This will create an appearance of a real metal surface.

**Step 5****Step 6**