

1309-2

Mark Nelson uses products from Rio Grande to demonstrate fold forming for a botanical shape.

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Guest:



Mark Nelson

Fold Forming: the Plunkett Fold

Fold forming as a technique was pioneered by Charles Lewton-Brain in the 1980s, and the particular floral technique shown here is named after metalsmith Kevin Plunkett. Full detailed descriptions of this technique and many more are given in his book *FoldForming*, see the supplies list below, but here is a quick overview.

steps:

1. Select your stock

You can use 26-gauge sheet in brass, copper, silver—even gold. Cut a square piece 2" x 2".

2. Use a vise to create the initial fold

Fold your piece loosely in half by hand. Place the piece in your bench vise with one end of the fold sticking slightly up. Flatten the fold carefully with a goldsmith's hammer and then finish with a rawhide or weighted mallet. **Note:** Anneal your piece if necessary between hammering steps to keep it workable. Reclamp your piece so that the vise grips one side of the table which was just created. Push the table upward away from the legs to about 45 degrees. Clamp the other side of the table and repeat, creating a Y-shaped cross section. Press the upper arms of the "Y" together and flatten the form with your mallet.

3. Flatten completely with a rolling mill

First do a "dead-pass" run to set the depth of your rollers. Close the opening slightly and repeat. Continue to roll your form through the mill until it is flattened and smoothed completely.

4. Reveal the design

Anneal your piece a final time and then pull it open gently with pliers to reveal the final form.



supplies:

Order #	Description
550-854	<i>FoldForming</i> by Charles Lewton-Brain
100-126	Sterling sheet, 26-gauge
132-126	Copper sheet, 26-gauge
113-132	Heavy duty combination bench vise
113-514	Durston combination rolling mill, 130mm
116-171	Starrett deluxe dividers
112-503	Forming sandbag, 8"
115-315	Steel bench block
112-403	Peddinghaus goldsmith's hammer
112-212	Rawhide mallet
111-117	Maun parallel pliers, flat nose
111-118	Maun parallel pliers, flat nose, urethane-lined



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