Metal Stamped Leather Wrap Bracelet

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This might be one of my all time favorite gifts that I've ever made! I'm sure that won't be the last time I say that, but this one will probably be tops for a while. I had been wanting to try a metal stamping project for a long time, and we all know I love wrap bracelets and personalized gifts, so this metal stamped leather wrap bracelet using kids birth dates was a perfect combination. The first one I made was for my sister-in-law and then I made a few for some people on my team at work.



As I mentioned, this was my first metal stamping project. I had collected some of the tools over several months. I won't attempt to write a metal stamping tutorial as there are people out there with much more experience that can guide you through. One tutorial I used to get started was from Happy Hour Projects.

*Some supplies links may be linking to affiliate links on amazon.com.

Basic bracelet supplies:

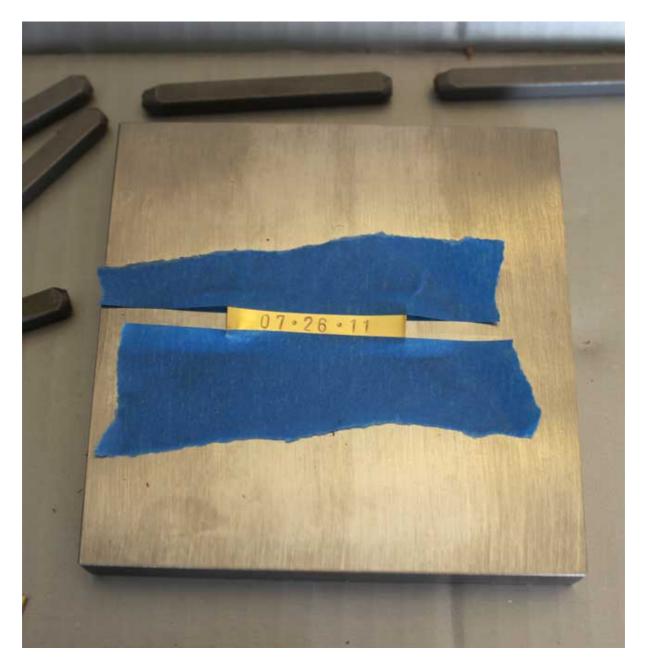
- Leather wrap bracelet (I used double and triple wrap styles).
- Metal stamping sheets (I cut these down to my desired size)
- 20 gauge wire

Tools:

- Metal stamping set with numbers, I also used a period sign from a basic punctuation set.
- Steel bench block
- Hammer
- Wire cutter
- Metal cutter
- Pliers
- Metal hole punch
- Black Sharpie
- Rubbing alcohol
- · cotton cloth

First I cut small rectangles from my metal sheets. I cut them approximately the same width of my bracelet figuring I'd cut them down a bit after I stamped them. For length it was purely trial and error based on the size of my metal stamped numbers.

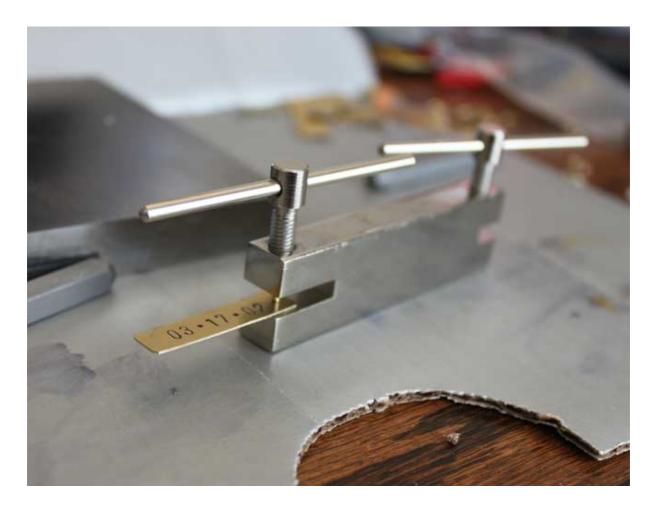
I taped down my metal piece to the steel bench block and stamped the month date and year of the child's birthday with a period between each set of numbers.



To darken the dates, I used a Sharpie marker and then rubbed it off gently with a cotton cloth with rubbing alcohol on it. This leaves the numbers darkened but not the rest of the metal.



After that I put a hole in each end of each of the metal rectangles so that I could attach them to the leather wrap bracelet.



Then I created the holes in the the leather wrap bracelet, two for each hole on the metal stamped rectangle. This took a bit of measuring against my wrist to decide where I wanted the metal rectangles and then where to place the holes.



Originally I thought I was going to use jump rings to fasten my stamped metal rectangles to the leather wrap bracelet, but after a few attempts, I gave up. I bought some 20 guage wire and looped it through each hole and then overlapped them on top.



Finally I trimmed the wire and tried to make sure it was as smooth as possible so it wouldn't catch on things.

I'm so happy with how they turned out. They are a little imperfect looking which is part of what I love about them – varying darkness of the numbers and some are a little uneven.

Here's the triple wrap bracelet I made for my sister-in-law.



Then I made some double wrap bracelets for a few people on my team, some in gold and some in silver.





I'm thinking of making another one for a friend and one for myself using a phrase instead of birth dates which were my original inspiration from the site Bourbon and Boots. I'm pretty excited about doing those, I just need to figure out what sayings i want to use.

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