

# **Tin Punching**

**History:** Punched tin designs date back to 14<sup>th</sup> Century Europe and were popular on lanterns. This tradition was common in Colonial America where tin designs were found on lanterns, cupboards and other furniture.

Pie safes were popular in the 17- and 1800's and featured punched tin panels for air circulation. Today, tin punched sheets are used to create a vintage look on cabinets and other home items. Tin sheets are available at Van Dyke's Restorers.

The art of tin punching is fairly simple and doesn't require a lot of special skills.

## **Cutting the tin sheet:**

Use a pair of well-sharpened heavy duty metal shears or a metal cutting blade on a jig saw.

## **Punching Steps:**

1. Trace your design on a sheet of paper the size you want on your project. (Hundreds of patterns are available on line.)
2. Back the tin with cardboard or plywood for durability, and tack the paper and tin to a secure surface to begin punching.
3. Punch with special round tip punching tool (available in most hardware stores) or nails.
4. For punching lines, use a chisel the desired width.
5. Turn the finished tin over, and use a rawhide or rubber mallet to flatten the sharp edges you just punched.
6. For an antique look, finish by scrubbing the surface with a scrubber or steel wool.
7. Finish with a clear lacquer to prevent rusting.