

Etching Aluminum Using Laser Printed Artwork

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Conclusion


[put finished picture here]

Overview

I will present a process for etching computer generated artwork onto aluminum. The key hardware is a laser printer. Nothing presented here is original, just mixed and matched from suggestions given to me by the Gingery_Machines, Atlas_Craftsman, and Valley_Metal Yahoo BBS.

The basic idea is to create a mask using any of a number of common software tools. The only requirement is that the software must be able to print artwork

mirror image and reverse color.  The black area is made up of particles of plastic and pigment fused to the paper. By inducing these particles to let go of the paper and fuse to the metal to be etched, we create our etching mask. It is then a simple matter of using salt water and some DC current to erode

away the exposed metal.  All that is left to do is fill up the artwork with a contrasting material like paint and clean off the surface.

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