

Metalworking, STEAM, and Culture

Metal objects reflect their makers' culture and accomplishments in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM).



Hojalata tin art draws on indigenous and Spanish traditions. To create beautiful objects, such as picture frames and ornaments, artisans cut and shape thin sheets of tin. They decorate them by punching holes, engraving designs, and painting the metal.

Tin art can be decorated with many different motifs. Suns, moons, stars, and other celestial objects reflect a long tradition of observing and drawing inspiration from the skies.



Making *hojalata* tin art (above) and finished examples (right).

Many other metalworking traditions also integrate culture and STEAM.

For example, lowrider cars are famous for their customization. It takes great technical knowledge to build the cars' bodies and hydraulics and artistic talent to create their engraved and painted designs.



Interior of a lowrider car, with custom engraving, paint, and upholstery