

Tin Snips

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ART OF TINSMITHING

VOLUME I ISSUE 2

General: Well, our membership is growing! We are now up to 23 members. And, during the next month, we will be sending out some 60+ invitations to museums to join our ranks. So, with a little luck and the continued support of our members, we may indeed have a viable publication in the near future!

A. Articles of interest:

We owe thanks to Dawson Gillaspy for the following on soldering fumes, taken from The Crafts Report/November 1990:

"Inhalation of the vapors of acid fluxes such as zinc chloride or muriatic acid can irritate the respiratory tract, as is the case with most acids, particularly if they are highly concentrated. The fumes of these fluxes produced when they are heated are even more irritating, and if large quantities are inhaled they cause the lungs to develop edema (swelling) or an accumulation of fluid that can make breathing difficult, and in severe cases impossible.

If soldering with an acid flux is a daily operation and produces repeated irritation of the lungs, there is a risk of developing chronic bronchitis or emphysema. Ventilation of the soldering process solves the problem."

So, ladies and gentlemen, VENTILATE the area where soldering!

B. Items for Sale: Nothing to report this issue.

C. Items Wanted by Members: No specific needs to report.

D. Articles made by members, etc.: Nothing submitted.

E. Sources For Materials:

1. From Karen Dunwoody comes this source for some really nice tinsplate. This is not a real bright finish, and is NOT electroplated! The material is .014" X 10" coils, Temper 4., hot dipped tin on cold rolled steel strip. Drawback: Minimum order is 2,500 lbs! Source is Thomas Steel Strip Corp., Delaware Ave. N.W., Warren, OH 44485. Phone is (216) 841-6222. Salesman is MR. Donald Laase. Folks, this has the appearance of "old" tin in that it is a dull finish, and looks authentic!

Continued

E. Sources (Continued)

I called the source and got the following info:

They can produce any gage from .008" up to .084", and in widths up to 11" max. Since a coil weighs 2500 lbs., a coil of .020" thick and 11" wide would cost \$2200.00 f.o.b. Warren Ohio. They suggested that we could, if needed, ship the coil to a steel center for cutting to length and thereby share with members since very few of us could afford to purchase an entire roll. The cost/ft. of .020 X 11" is about \$.65 plus shipping and cutting to length at a steel center. Any ideas from our members as to how we can take advantage of this? Your comments will be welcomed, and will be shared in the next issue!

Continuing with sources;

2. From Donald Roder comes this source for stakes:

Centaur Forge, Ltd.
P.O.Box 340
117 N. Spring St.
Burlington, WI 53105
(414) 763-9175

3. Also from Mr. Roder:

RETCO ALLOY COMPANY
880 Estes Avenue
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
1-800-722-3307
Source for bright electroplate tinplate.

4. From yours truly:

Rio Grande Albuquerque
6901 Washington N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87109
I learned of this company from Dale the Tinker, and they have a wide variety of tools for us.

5. Lehman's Hardware

P.O.Box 41
Kidron, OH 44636
(216) 857-5441
Ask for their "Non-Electric" catalog for chimneys/lamp parts.

Continued

E. Sources (Cont'd)

6. MALCO Products, Inc.
Annandale, MN 55302
(Write for name of nearest distributor; tools for tinwork.

F. Miscellaneous:

1. From Donald Roder comes the following request for help:

"Does anyone know how I can prevent rust from forming along a folded seam? On my lanterns and coffee pots my soldered seams are fine (after a year) but my folded seams, in spots have rust running along the seam"

Don, on lanterns I coat my seams with bees wax in a very thin coat to prevent rust. On coffee pots that would not be of much help tho. Anyone else?

2. And, from Don Morse comes:

"In the course of working as coppersmiths we are often asked about replacing tin or nickel linings of cooking utensils. We have tried to find someone in this area who knows the technique for doing this, but without success. If you or one of your members know how this is done or a book that explains the method, we would appreciate knowing it. Thanks for any help you can give us."

So, there is a challenge for each of you! Any suggestions?

And, wouldn't you know it! I forgot one item offered by Walter Fleming! Walter offers the tip that RETCO Alloys has a little 1" dia. X 12" long slip roll for sale at \$250.00. Thank you Walter, and sorry I got it in the wrong spot!

In closing, we hope that you all continue to submit material for Tin Snips. It is only in this way that we can all grow and keep the art alive and well.

As mentioned earlier, we intend to send offers of membership to over 60 museums with the hope that this will provide them with a list of tinsmiths for repair work, etc. and thereby help those who want to get into that line of work. We will keep you posted. And, if anyone has any comments on this approach, let's hear from you!

We hope that 1991 is good to each and every one of you!

Jim Nixon

