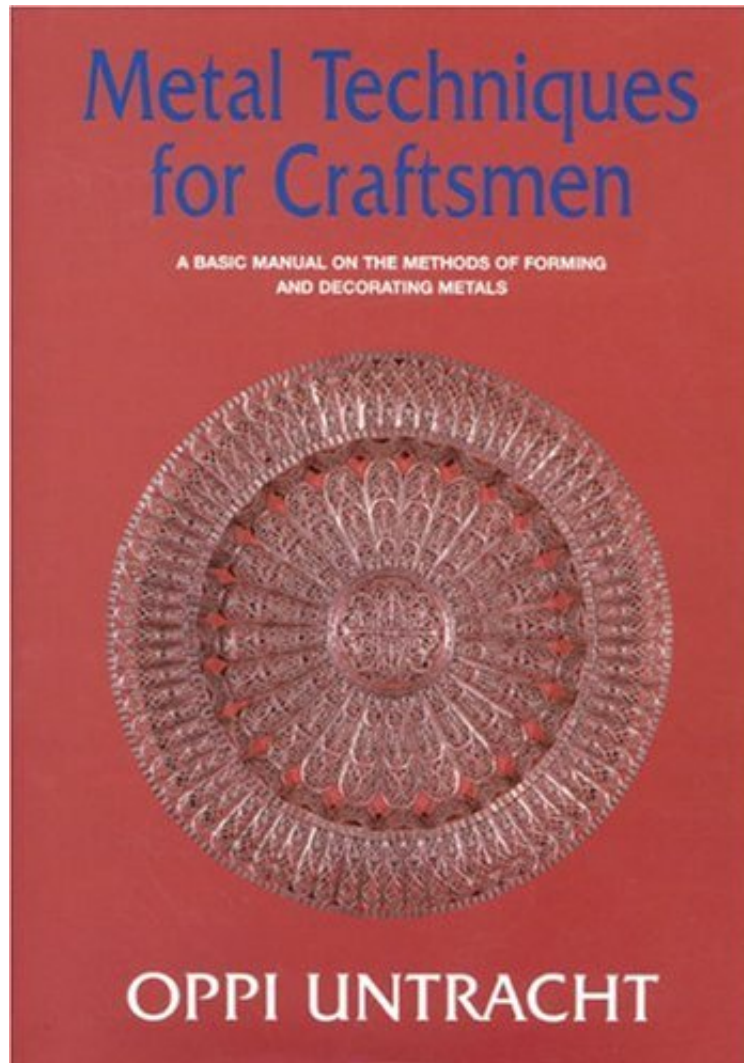


(Free) Metal Techniques for Craftsmen: A Basic Manual on the Methods of Forming and Decorating Metals

Metal Techniques for Craftsmen: A Basic Manual on the Methods of Forming and Decorating Metals

Oppi Untracht

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I checked this book out a few times over twenty years ago in the local county library, and vowed I'd someday have my own copy. Well, I have one now. It says "Basic Manual" in the title, but let me assure you, this is no dumbed down simplistic text. It goes into gloriously Old World style detail of all of the 'basic' physical procedures and techniques any aspiring metal artist could ever need or want. The late author's love for his subject shines brightly through every single page. Where in this world can you find that anymore? There's even a chapter on iron and steel work, a subject not normally covered in books intended for jewellers. The one flaw it has... is that it's by now years out of print and is edging into the Rare Book category; prices for the remaining editions are going up into the "oh my gods, do I really wanna pay that much for a book??" zone, and I count myself EXTREMELY LUCKY to have acquired the one I have at the (comparatively) ridiculously low price I paid. It absolutely deserves to be reprinted for the up-and-coming younger folks.

This book gives complete instructions on the handling, working, and finishing of all metals. It begins with basic information and the characteristic qualities of each of the metals met by the craftsman, both precious and base. It then describes the various techniques in working metals, as well as methods of metal fabrication such as smithing, annealing, forging, and casting. The methods of metal finishing, as well as explanations of various hand tools and their uses are also included.

About the Author
Oppi Untracht's interest in crafts began in the 1930s and developed with Fine Arts degrees from New York University and Columbia. Metalwork, enamelling and jewellery are his special interests, and he has both taught and exhibited internationally in these mediums. He has written numerous articles for *Graphis*, *Craft Horizons*, *American Craft* and *Colliers Encyclopedia*, and is the author of *Jewellery Concepts and Technology*, also published by Robert Hale.