

Spanish Colonial Tinwork

Tinwork is a folk-art form which has been passed down for generations and was very common in New Mexico along the Santa Fe Trail. Tin became very popular among artisans as the material was much cheaper than silver and was available in large amounts. Artisans used tin for many items such as *nichos*, sconces, ornamental boxes and, the most popular were tin frames.

You Will Need:

- Pie tins or foil baking trays
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Blank paper/Printable Template
- Tape
- Ruler

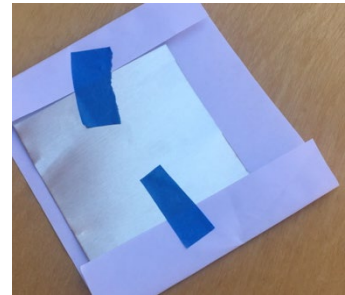
Instructions

1. Use scissors to cut out the bottom of the tray, and then cut out a rectangle 4" by 6". You may be able to adjust the size of your frame depending on the size of your tray.
2. Tape your piece of paper over the tin rectangle, fold over the edges and tape them down on the back.
3. Flip it over and draw one-inch margins on each side. To do this, use your ruler to measure one inch from each edge and leave a mark with your pencil.

Or

Print out a template below, line it up with your tin piece, then tape it on the back.

4. Draw your designs lightly onto the paper or trace the lines of the template with your pencil. When you like your design, lay your tin on a soft surface like a stack of newspaper or a notebook and firmly press down along the lines you drew.



5. When you take off your paper, you will have a relief of the design you drew! Now, you can glue a 2" by 4" drawing of something important in the center of your frame.

According to tradition, people would most often put saints or religious figures in the frame because they were culturally important. What will you put in your frame?

Alternate version with aluminum foil

Instructions

1. Cut a piece of cardboard 4" by 6" and cut the piece of aluminum foil the same size.
2. Glue the aluminum foil onto the cardboard so it is centered. Use your thumb to smooth down the foil over the cardboard.
3. Using a ruler, create a 1" frame around the edges. To do this, you can measure 1" from the edges and mark with your pencil.
4. Using a dull pencil, press your design into the border or trace from an outline. Be firm but don't press too hard or you'll rip the foil. Common motifs to include are teardrop shapes, flowers, dots, swirling lines.
5. When you are finished, you can glue a 2" by 4" drawing into the center of your frame!

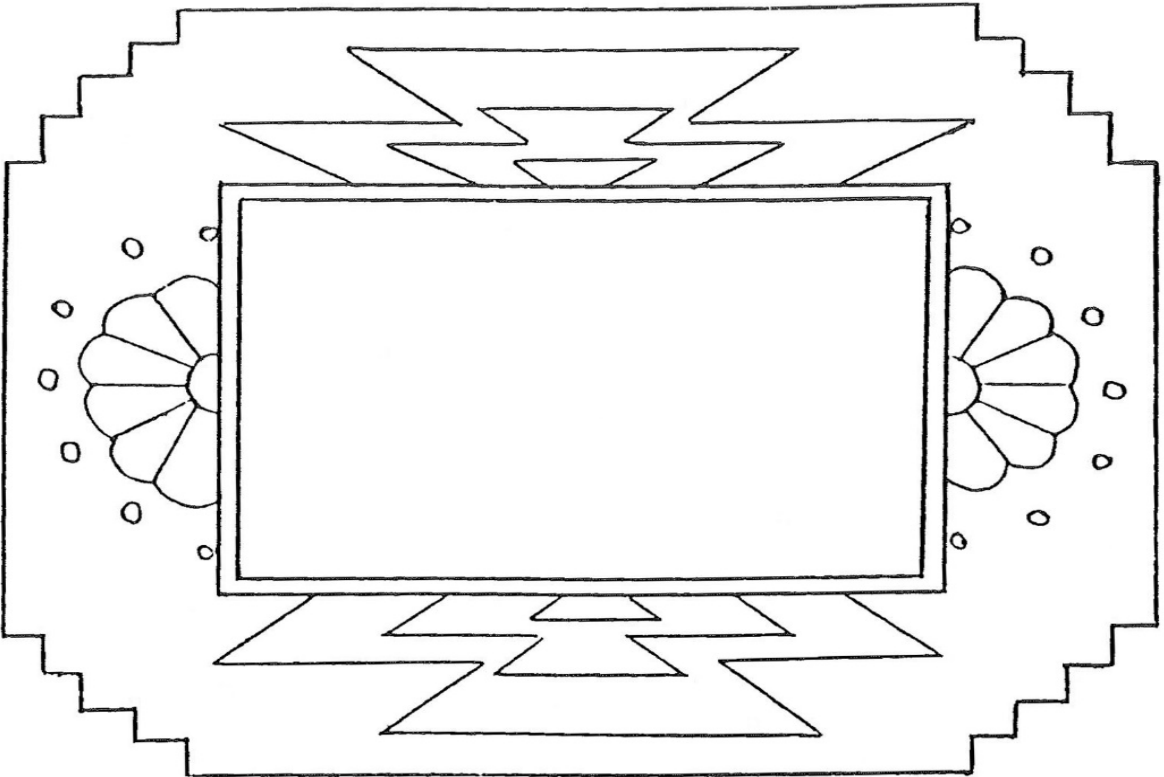
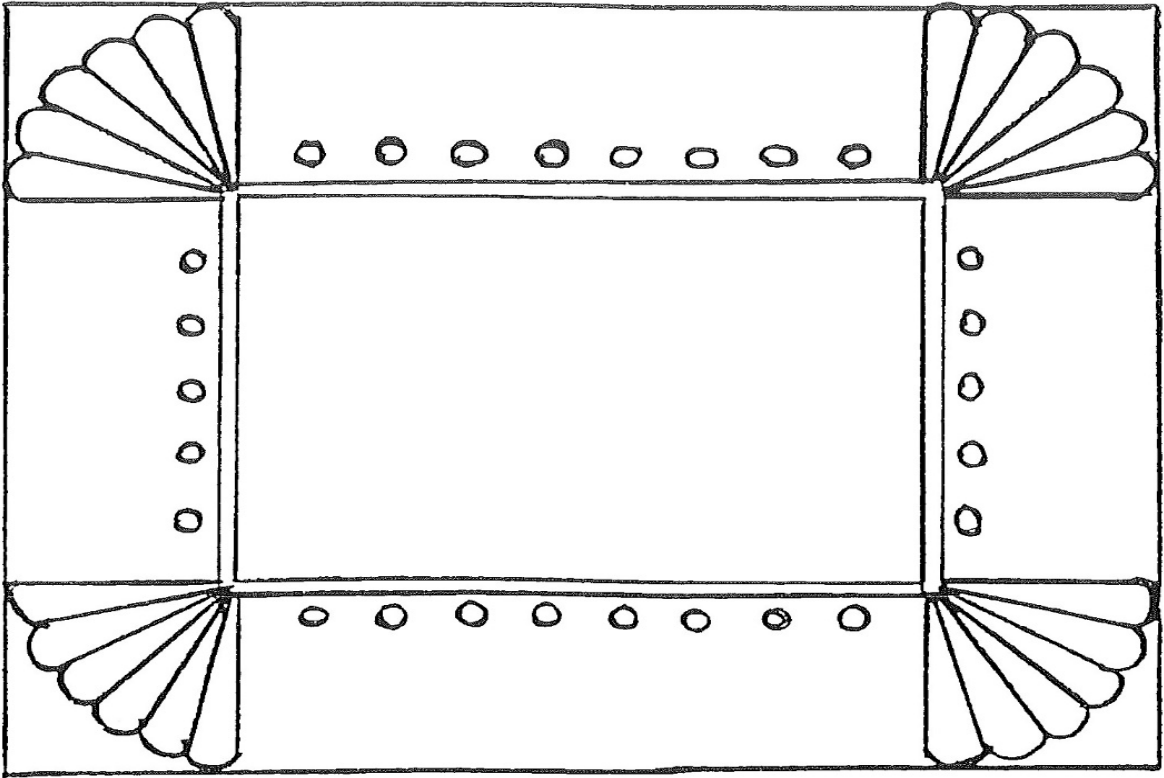
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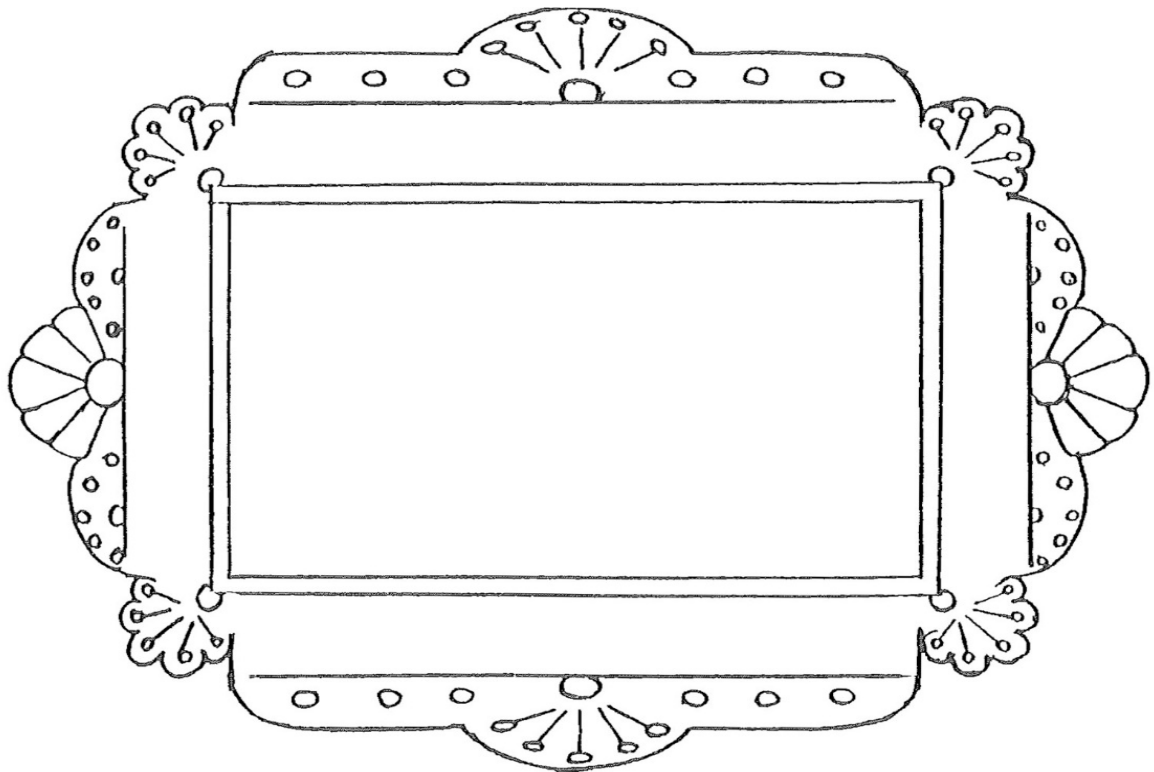
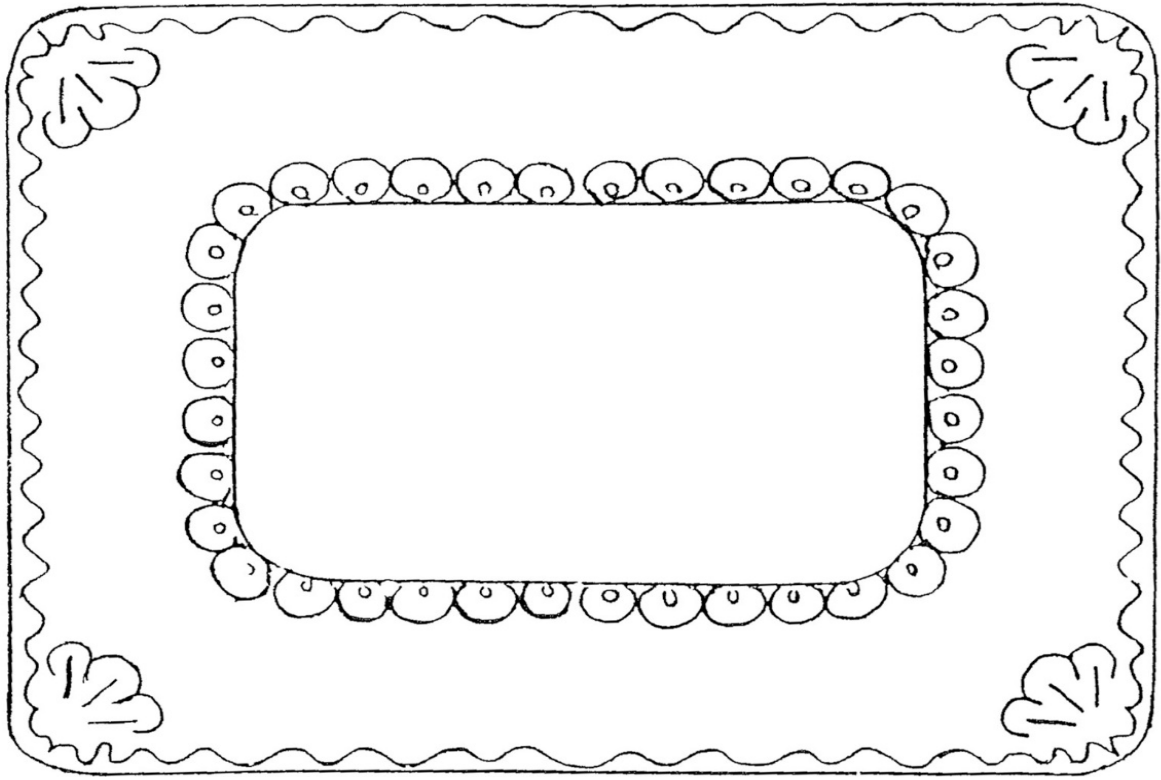
You Will Need:

- Glue Stick
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Aluminum Foil
- Blank paper
- Ruler



Below are some printable templates you can use to make your frame. These frames hold a 2" x 3.5" drawing or photograph.







Lulu looking good in a tin framed mirror!