

Making Your Mark

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Why Stamp Your Work?

•For Posterity & Provenance.

- for collectors, museums & appraisers.

- to help establish the **history of our field**.

 - *including the *secondary market*.

- to create a **personal history** of your creative life.

•As a Sales Tool.

- a maker's mark is seen by many as a signature and, as such, implies and establishes **value, significance and collectability**.

- customers sometimes won't buy a piece if it hasn't been "signed".

•Informational:

- A date can help the collector (and the maker as well) keep track of a career (even their own).

- Marking "ingredients" can help the repair-person proceed correctly.

- Marking a piece with a title helps ensure that the name will always travel with the work.

•Because it's the Law...

- that is, if you stamp the quality (hallmark), you must stamp the maker or vendor.*

*The best place to start is to visit the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office website. This website is very informative and can help you get the necessary info that you need.

<http://www.uspto.gov>

Excellent FAQ pages:

http://Microstamp.us/index.php?main_page=page&id=23

<http://www.ottofrei.com/Custom-Design-Stamp-From-Your-Artwork.html>

Things to Remember in Marking:

- Consider what information you will include. I stamp/mark with:
 - metals (could even include nonprecious metals such as bronze).
 - maker name or logo.
 - date: year, sometimes entire date.
 - sometimes title of piece.
 - text: sometimes a personal message (as in a gift).
- Mark in an area of low wear and that is visually appropriate.
 - mark in an area that makes sense and integrates into the overall design.
- On hollow or delicate objects:
 - consider “writing” with a bur.
 - consider affixing a previously stamped or etched tag or “seal”.
- Mark deep: this is for posterity so stamp or engrave deeply or use indelible inks.

Stamps & Logos

- For jewelry: Keep your mark (logo, signature, initials) readable at 1-2mm tall.
 - print out your mark at life-size to check for readability.
- Average ring stamp is 1-1.5mm tall.
- Longer logos or names are generally harder to imprint, especially when using a bent ring stamp, which has a curved or radiused face.
 - if you use a bent/ goose-necked ring stamp for flat objects, rock it back and forth to accommodate its curved face.
- It's best to strike powerfully once, to avoid double stamping.
- If using a stamp, strike with a bronze or brass mallet.

The Law

- You **DO NOT** need to mark your work with quality or metal content.
- You **MAY** stamp only your name/logo--or nothing at all

BUT

- If you mark with metal quality (gold, etc.) you must include your name or maker's mark.
 - a logo/trademark **MUST** be registered.
 - a name/signature (last name at least) need **NOT** be registered.
- If possible, each individual precious metal should be stamped with quality.
 - one maker's mark will be fine if it is stamped close by the quality mark.

- Stamping laws and guidelines are there to protect the CONSUMER.

Maker Mark Stamp Manufacturers



Price quoted for this logo:

•square shank• bent ring stamp•1.3mm high

•Buckeye Engraving 330-677-5685 www.steelhandstamps.com	\$130 + s&h	?
•C & W Steel Stamp Co. 800-838-4233 www.ringstamps.com	\$150 + s&h	1 week
•Everstamp (Henry A Evers Co.) 800-553-8377 www.henryaevers.com	\$158 +\$7.95 s&h	2-3 weeks
•Hamid Rashidi (Otto Frie) 510.832.0355 x110 hamidr@ottofrei.com	\$130 + tax + s&h	4 weeks
•Infinity Stamps, Inc 818-576-1188 ext.317 www.infinitystamps.com	\$145 + s&h	2-3 weeks

•Microstamp (800) 243-354 www.microstamp.us	\$125 + s&h	1-2 weeks
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** actual delivery: 3 days*

•Steel Stamps Inc. (Harper Mfg.) (800) 776-8407 www.steelstampsinc.com	\$120.00	2 weeks
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•**Rio Grande (Impressions)**

n/a

Slow response and
confusing requirements.