

How to Make Animal Badges with Bryony Knox



Difficulty Level: Ladybird- Level 1. Dragonfly & Blue Whale- Level 2

Time to make solo or in pairs : 30 mins per brooch

In these films, silversmith Bryony Knox shows you how to make badges from recycled tin. Choose from a ladybird, dragonfly or a blue whale, all of which are endangered creatures we find in Scotland. You can draw on the tin freehand or use the template that accompanies each of the badges. Watch the films for other ideas of what you can make using the same techniques.

Circular Design Principles

- Design for Disassembly
- Transforming Waste to Value
- Inspired by Nature
- Multi-Functional

Health & Safety:

The tin we are using is very thin and easy to cut with scissors. Cut straight lines are not sharp but jagged edges are. Explain this to the class and ask the children to cut off any sharp corners or jagged edges and place small pieces of tin in a central bowl/ pot which is on their table. **Please see the “Tools and How to Cut Cans Safely” film for more information.**

Materials (and alternatives)

- **Drinks Cans** (NB we use the term tin when talking about this metal but it is actually thin sheets of aluminium)
- **Paper fasteners** (or wire or buttons/ wooden beads/ hamma beads/pipe cleaners, to use with wool & needle)
- **Safety Pins**
- **Optional** - Nail file or sandpaper (to see the embossed pattern more clearly)

Tools - please list below

- Scissors
- Hole Punch (or bradawl/ knitting needle / old pointy biro and ball of plasticine/ Blu Tack)
- Old Biro/Ballpoint pen- for embossing
- Something to lean on (e.g. newspaper/magazine/old mouse mat)

Materials that can be prepared in advance if wished:

- Tin from Drinks Cans : wash and dry cans. Cut the sheets of tin from can, make corners safe and roll flat (see note above and film)

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LADYBIRD BADGE

1. Put your sheet of tin with the silver side facing up on the table. Draw round the template or a circular lid to get two circles. One will be the Ladybird's body and one its wings.
2. Draw a small semi-circle at the top of the first circle to make the head on the bug's body. - **see template**
3. Cut both pieces out with scissors. Remember to be careful of pointy edges and put all small pieces of tin in the waste bowl on your table.
4. Cut the 'Wings' circle in half and round the corners off - **see template**
5. Place the 'Body' part of the Ladybird on something squishy (e.g. a folded newspaper/magazine/ mouse mat) with the silver side facing **down**. With a biro draw on two eyes and any pattern you want. The Ball point pen pushes down the tin, **embossing** it so that it is raised on the front side. You can experiment with using the coloured or silver side of the tin and how this will make your design look best. If you draw with a biro on the silver side, it will be raised on the coloured side. To help see this decoration, you can gently rub the raised paint away with an old nail file or sandpaper.
6. Using a **hole punch**, cut holes in the wings, one near the top for the paper fastener, the rest for decoration. TIP: take the base off the hole punch and turn it over so that you can see where to punch the holes so you don't go too close to the edge.
7. Place the wings in the right place over the body. Mark where the two paper fastener holes on the body need to be punched - **see template**. Punch out these holes with **Hole Punch**.
8. Place the body silver side **UP** and the wings on top with the silver side **DOWN**. Fasten the two layers with paper fasteners. They can be opened and shut to reveal the decoration on the body.
9. Turn the whole badge over and curl over long legs of the brass paper fastener over the top bar of a safety pin. This may need a bit of help from an adult.
10. Wear your creation with pride!

DRAGONFLY BADGE

1. Cut Dragonfly body and two wing template pieces out from sheet tin. Think about what colours work and also about tessellation- can you get all the pieces out of one sheet, leaving as little waste as possible?
2. Emboss the wings and body with patterns and eyes etc. To help see this decoration, you can gently rub the raised paint away with an old nail file or sandpaper.
3. Make a hole in the middle of the body with a hole punch.
4. Layer up all the pieces of the Dragonfly and mark with a biro where to make two small holes on the wings, where they all overlap. This is to fix a button with wire (or thread or wool). Make the small holes in each separate layer with a needle (or scissors or a pointy pen).
5. Thread wire or wool through the button and all the layers- twist or knot at the back. Alternatively, punch a hole with a hole punch at this central point and use a paper fastener.
6. Twist round a safety pin to make a badge or a loop of wire to make a decoration.

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BLUE WHALE BADGE

1. Cut out the whale's body, tail and fin using the **template**, from sheet tin.
2. Emboss eye and markings on the silver side of the tin. Optional - sand off embossed painted surface to reveal details.
3. Hole punch holes in tail, fin and body - **see template**.
4. Fix together with a Paper Fastener.
5. Attach Safety Pin to back by curling paper- fastener legs around it.

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL BADGES

Try these other ideas using the same techniques:

- CHRISTMAS DECORATION: Attach wire loop to make a hanging window or tree decoration.
- BOOKMARK: Cut a long, wide strip of tin. Round off corners. Emboss and decorate. Punch a hole at top and thread onto badge's paper fasteners.
- PENCIL/ BOTTLE TOPPER: Cut about 10 cm of wire/ or use pipe cleaner. Wind top end around button or paper fastener. Wind rest of wire around a pencil top or bottle.
- PLANT POT DECORATION: see above using longer wire and then stick into earth.
- ... and I am sure you can think of many more...KEY RING, COAT PEG MARKER, SCHOOL BAG DECORATION....

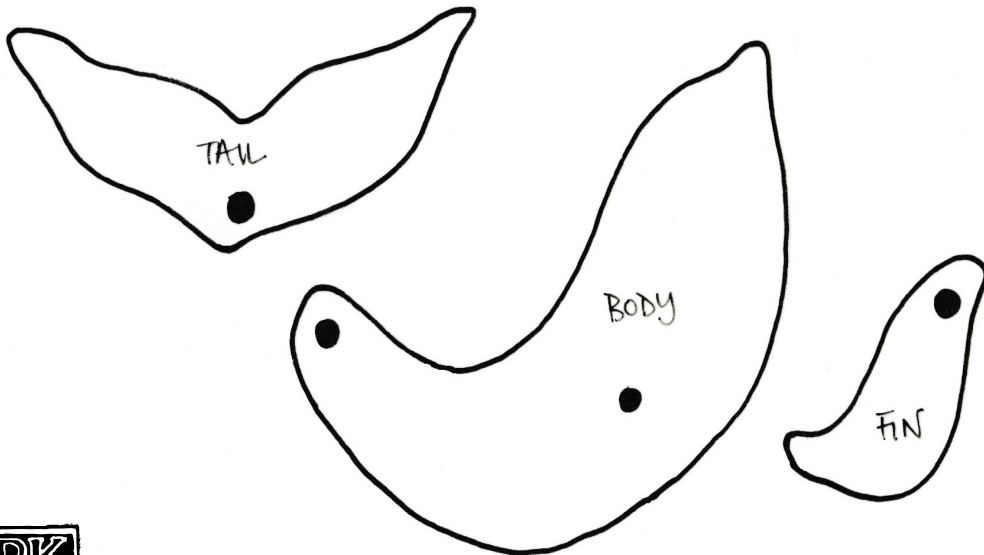
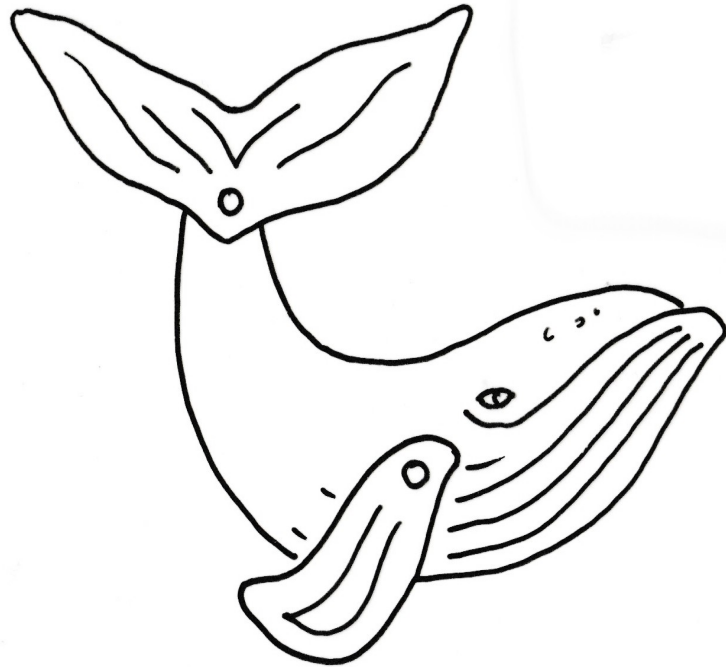
Tips

- To mark the template onto tin, lay the printed paper over the sheet of tin and hold in place. Draw over the outline with an old biro to emboss the shape directly onto the tin.
- Obviously all parts can also be drawn freehand by pupils onto the tin- it is easier to see the drawing on reverse/ silver side of tin with a felt-tip pen, which can be wiped off later.
- If you want the separate pieces to move ie. wings, legs etc, make hole with Hole Punch- a larger hole. If you want the layers to be more static, make a smaller hole with pointed Biro and plasticine, wool needle or small pointed scissors.
- On other badges, you may want to emboss by drawing on the silver side so that it is raised on the colour side
- If learners are making up their own animals, make sure that pieces, such as limbs, are being cut wide enough so that there is room for a hole to be punched, with spare tin surrounding the hole. This helps avoid torn holes.



ANIMAL BADGE TEMPLATES

★ BLUE WHALE ★



PRINT OUT SHEET

★ BLUE WHALE ★

