

# E<sup>3</sup>etch laser paper

## Copy black and white designs onto E3 etch paper to create toner transfers for etching!

E3 etch paper allows you to transfer copied images onto metal to create toner resists for etching. The metal will etch wherever metal is exposed, which is the white of the paper. The black toner will act as resist. You can find designs in clip art books, or create your own original design. Simply copy the designs onto E3 etch paper using a black toner based laser printer.

### Supplies needed:

Flat piece of copper, brass or silver  
Black laser toner image printed on E3 Etch paper  
Household iron  
Wooden board for ironing  
Press cloth (old pillowcase works well)  
600 grit sand paper  
Rubbing alcohol  
Cotton swabs

### How to transfer toner onto metal using E3 etch paper:

1. Prepare the metal blank by sanding it with 600 grit sanding paper. This will give the metal some “tooth” to help the toner to adhere. After sanding, clean the surface with rubbing alcohol.
2. For a direct toner transfer method, print a black and white design into E3 Etch laser paper using a toner based laser copier. Choose a design with strong lines and crisp details. The black areas of the design will act as a resist in the etching solution. Cut the design to fit your copper blank. Look at these examples to see how the image should appear in black and white.



poor design for etching



good design for etching

3. To Transfer the image to the metal, place the piece on a wooden board and place the image face down on the metal. Use a press cloth to cover the paper being careful not to displace. Press the piece with an iron set on high heat (cotton or linen setting); press with firm pressure covering the entire piece to insure even heating for about 1-2 minutes. Check the piece to make sure the paper is adhered. The paper should be flat with no ripples where the toner has been heat transferred.
4. After ironing the image to the metal, let the metal cool. Soak the piece in water until the paper looks transparent without white spots. This takes about 10 minutes. Carefully roll the paper working from the center out with your fingers. Re-dip the piece in water to moisten if needed. Don't scrape or scratch or you may remove the image. Simply rub the paper off until you can see the design. Don't worry if you see a white haze left behind on the design. This is just paper fibers that are left behind and they will not affect the etching. Better to leave the fibers than to risk scratching off part of the design. Pat the piece to dry with a cloth or towel.
5. If you accidentally lose some of the image, you can use an oil based paint marker to “fill in” the missing parts. If your transfer didn't work, you can always sand the piece and start again.
6. Prepare the piece for etching as directed for either copper or silver, see [www.sherrihaab.com/etch](http://www.sherrihaab.com/etch) for more information.