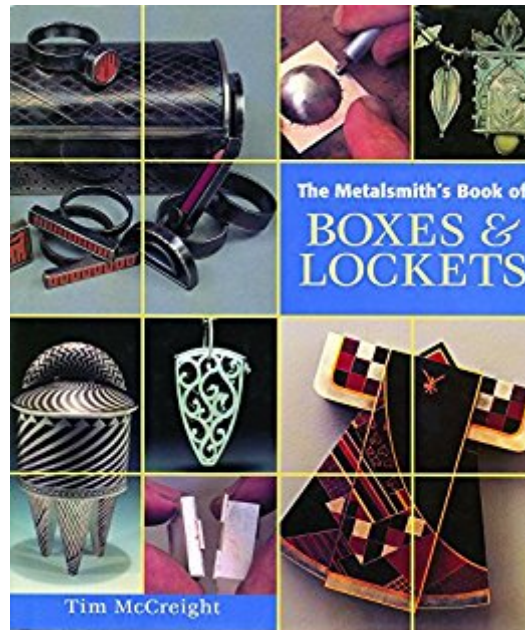


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# Metalsmith's Book Of Boxes & Locket



## Synopsis

This book, published in a print edition in 1999 has been praised for its high quality photos and practical information. In addition to featuring scores of exciting boxes by contemporary designers from around the world, the book describes dozens of hinges, catches and construction techniques in practical detail. Intended for intermediate metalsmiths, this book will not only teach you how to make that special hinge, but get you excited about what to do with it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tim has gathered beautifully photographed examples of remarkably intricate and creative boxes and lockets. However, rather than intimidate the novice, his instructions are so clear that one can turn out a modest success quickly. This book is to box making what Stark's book is to chains.

This book is a good introduction to the challenges and problems of making closing containers. As always, Tim McCreight includes process, principles and tips for success. The pieces included from other artist's are inspiring. If you are interested in making hinged containers and catches, this is a

must have. My students grab this book from the shelf all the time to use as reference.

As always Tim McCreight's book was inspirational. The book has a good range of photos of boxes and lockets made by a variety of jewellers to appeal to a wide range of people. Tim explains techniques and adds diagrams in a detailed but simple way for us all to understand. He also writes about problems we may have when making hinges. What made it apt for me was his comment on page 55, "If this is your first hinge, schedule about five minutes to open and close your box, smiling broadly."

This book is just what the metalsmith ordered for anyone interested in creating boxes and or lockets. Mr. McCreight's instructions are clean clear and precise, and when followed yield wonderful treasures. From 90 degree corners to hinges to hidden catches are covered in this book. No good metalsmith should be without this book in their reference library.

The Metalsmith's Book of Boxes & Lockets Many years ago I attended classes at Craft Alliance. This is a wonderful craft center in St. Louis, Missouri. The metalsmithing studio was well equipped with a more than ample library. The books on the shelf ranged from Tim McCreight's small wonder "The Complete Metalsmith, to "Form Emphasis for Metalsmiths," Heikki Seppa, and "Jewelry Concepts & Technology," Oppi Untracht. The students ranged from beginner to the more advanced. One particular student caught my attention. She was very reserved, but extremely focused. Each week I marveled at her mastery of the metal and its adaptability to her design requirements. Her finished container with its reticulated top was a "piece de resistance." I was delighted to discover Debbie LaFara as one of the featured artist in "The Metalsmith's Book of Boxes & Lockets" by Tim McCreight. She started with a sheet of metal, cutting out shapes for the body and legs. Her tiny cylindrical hinges fit like a glove. Her soldering skills were impeccable. As I perused the book many metalsmithing processes were presented to the reader. The instructive photographs, along with the author's excellent detailed step by step process, made a wonderful source of information for both the novice and more advanced metalsmithing practitioners. The book begins with building a box and continues on to explore hinges, lids, catches, tubing, soldering techniques, and finishing. Even if one has not advanced to Debbie's level, this book's contents are a treasure trove of information. It is very obvious that one does not have to feel "boxed in" when exploring one's own creativity.

After having enjoyed his "Jewelry: Fundamentals of Metalsmithing", I decided I definitely wanted to

purchase Tim McCreight's book on boxes and lockets. I had no doubt that this book would be as informational and interesting as the previous book, and I was not wrong. This well-written book excels not only in its specialized instruction in hinges and catch mechanisms, but also in its foundation of basic and intermediate metalsmithing. In addition, the wealth of color photographs of works by many other artists in addition to the author provides a veritable trove of inspiration for one's own original pieces. The appendices provide helpful information and numbers pertaining not only to fabricating boxes and lockets, but to all silver and goldsmithing in general. I must concur with the general consensus that McCreight's book are all essential resources for the metalsmith.

I found the section on hinges to be worth the price of the book, and another section on catches is almost as good. Many other topics are covered as well. The color photos illustrate what can be done with the techniques and materials being discussed. A wide range of styles is portrayed, and not everyone would find all of them to be attractive, but that really does not matter. You can create something in your own style using the techniques described. This is a reference work, but I also consider this an instructional book with a number of projects anyone can pursue if he or she owns the basic tools for metalworking.

If you are experienced in working with silver, this is the next step. Detailed and technical, it shows you exactly how to make Boxes and Lockets. A valuable resource one you will use over and over. Remember, this is more for the advanced not the novice.

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