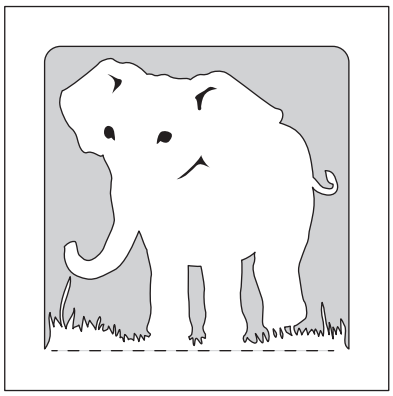

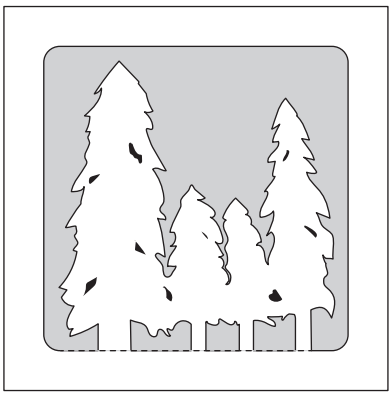



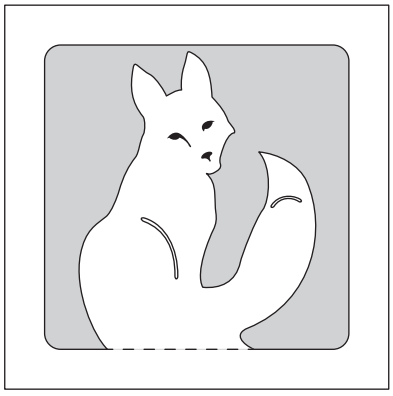

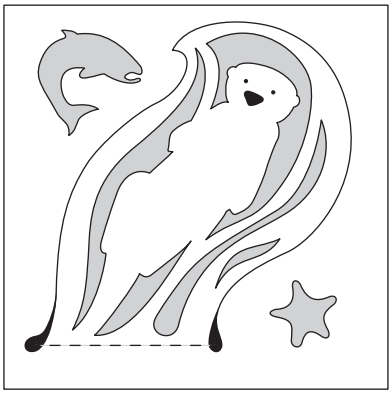

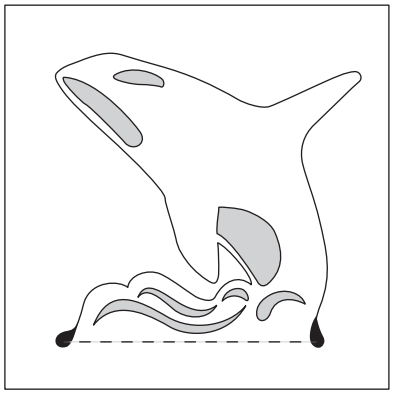

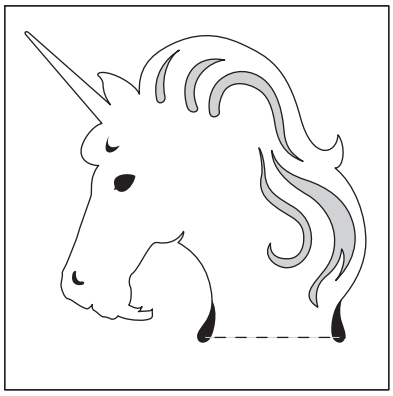

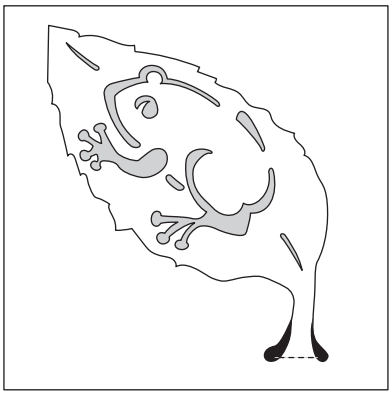



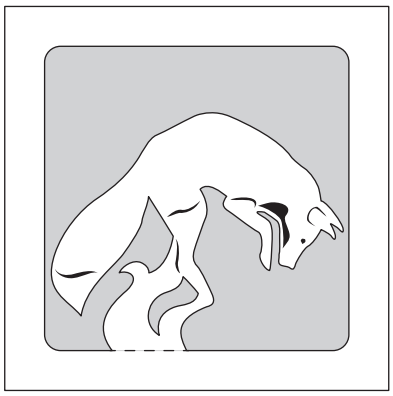

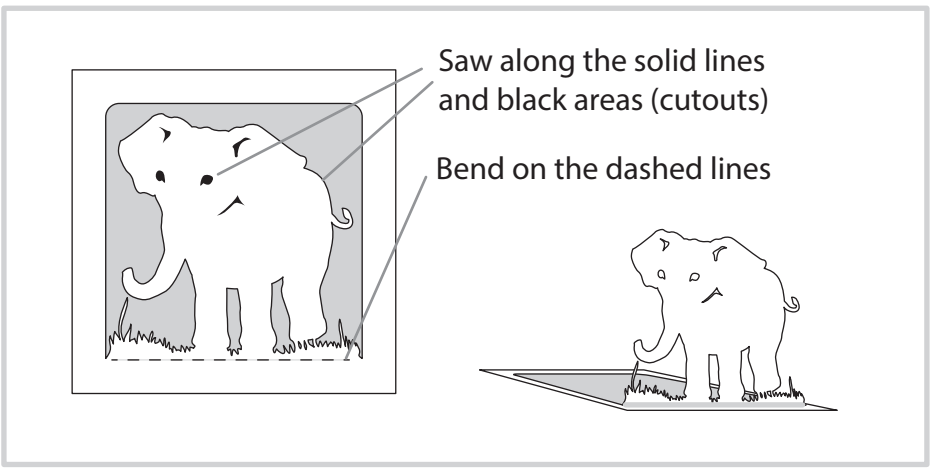
Saw along the solid lines
and black areas (cutouts)
Bend on the dashed lines

Sawn Brooch Challenge

The following sawn brooches are from Germany, Poland and Denmark. They were made by apprentices in the late 1940s & 1950s as part of their jewelry skills training. These brooches have become collectable as Student Radial Brooches.







Starting with simple disk of copper, brass, or silver the craftsperson domed and patterned the center. Then curved or straight lines were sawed in the metal towards the center creating a series of radial tabs. The radial tabs were then bent with pliers to create curls or petals.

Brooches from the collection of Fred Zweig







Darkening of the surface was done with patinas to add dimension.



Some makers used stamps, saw lines, and files to create a texture in the center of the brooch.



Other makers used gemstone as centers. The rolled up radial tabs to hold the stones in place like prongs.









This early steel brooch testifies to the lack of access to jewelry metals for students in post-war Europe.









Almost all of these brooches have mass-produced pin backs.
Using heavy weight card stock paper to practice patterns will help with creativity.



Brooches by:
Barbara Minor



Inspired by the Student Radial Brooches, current day Enamelist and Jewelry Artist, Barbara Minor, (USA) took on the challenge and created her own versions with her enameled domes as the central colorful feature.

Just imagine what will you do?