Thrifted Silverware Garden Markers

No. 106 – a series of hand-stamped garden markers made from thrifted silverware by Lauren, blogger at Craft My Life Away

Pattern written for the From Scratch Club (woohoo!)
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MATERIALS / TOOLS:

- Several old pieces of silverware, preferably silver-plated (I thrifted mine for 99 cents each)
- (1) set of 1/8inch steel number & letter stamps (I got mine at Harbor Freight Tools for $7.99)
- (1) rubber mallet
- (1) hammer
- (1) black permanent marker pen, fine point
- A really really hard and smooth surface for hammering
- Pair of protective eyewear
- Rubbing alcohol
- Paper towels

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Acquire silver-plated silverware! Like I said, I bought mine at a local thrift store for 99cents each, and I kind of think that I got ripped off, but I had a deadline so I just paid up.



2. Hammer all of your pieces of silverware so that they are totally and completely flat. I found it easiest to lay the utensil right-side down on my anvil, and using my mallet, I hammered the piece from the back as hard as I possibly could. You really have to whack the crap out of the piece of silverware.

   Just a note – some of the pieces, like the biggest spoon in the above picture require extra effort, including using the hammer rather than the mallet to flatten the piece. You have to be careful because the hammer can leave marks, but it is much easier to use the hammer in those instances.

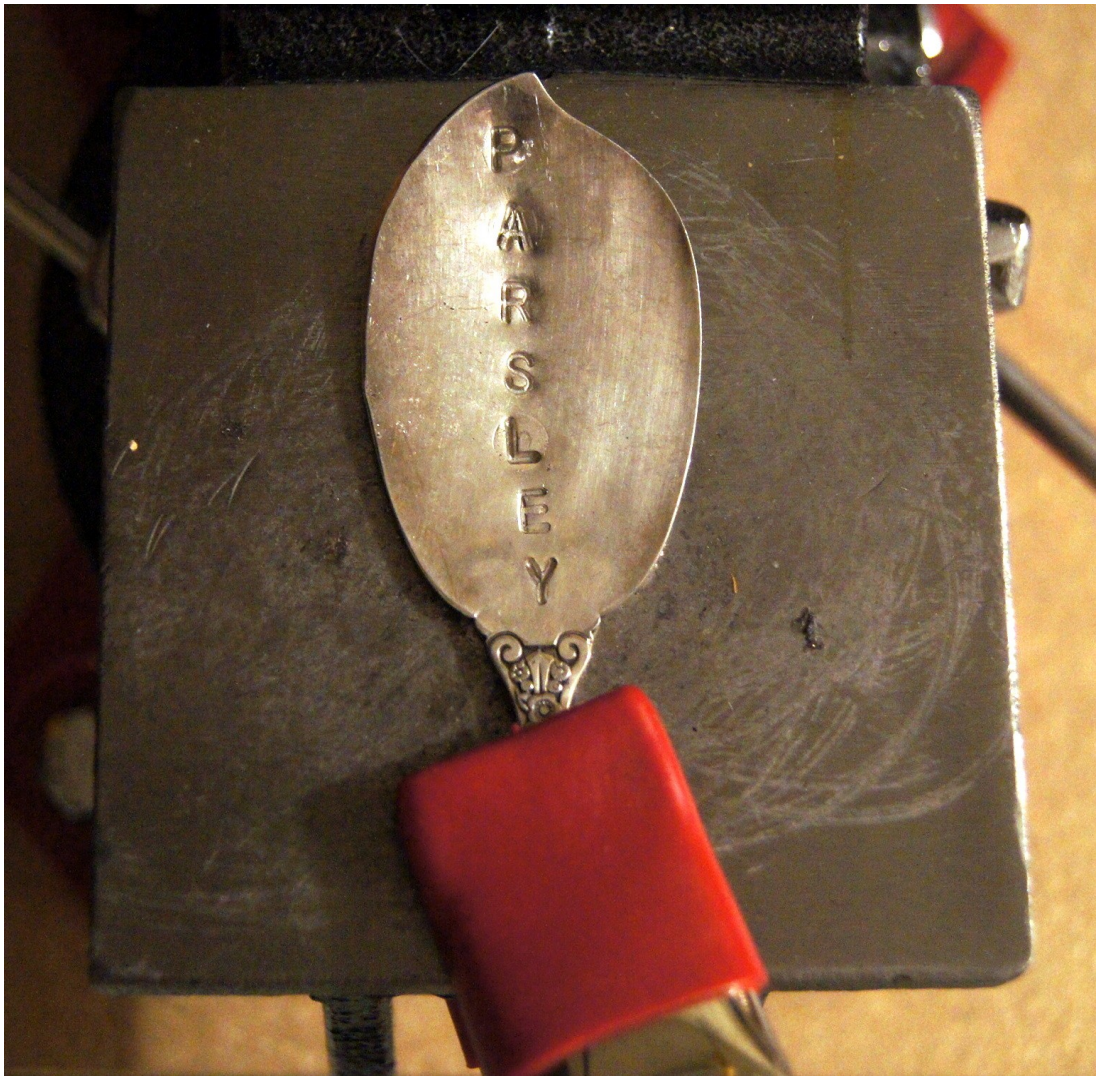


3. It's time to plan out your wording and start stamping! Honestly, I just eyeballed my spacing in all instances and it worked out pretty well, for the most part. These certainly aren't perfect, but the good news is that they don't have to be!

   For my setup, I had an anvil to use so I also grabbed a clamp and then clamped the utensil to the anvil. It worked out perfectly for me, but do whatever works for you.

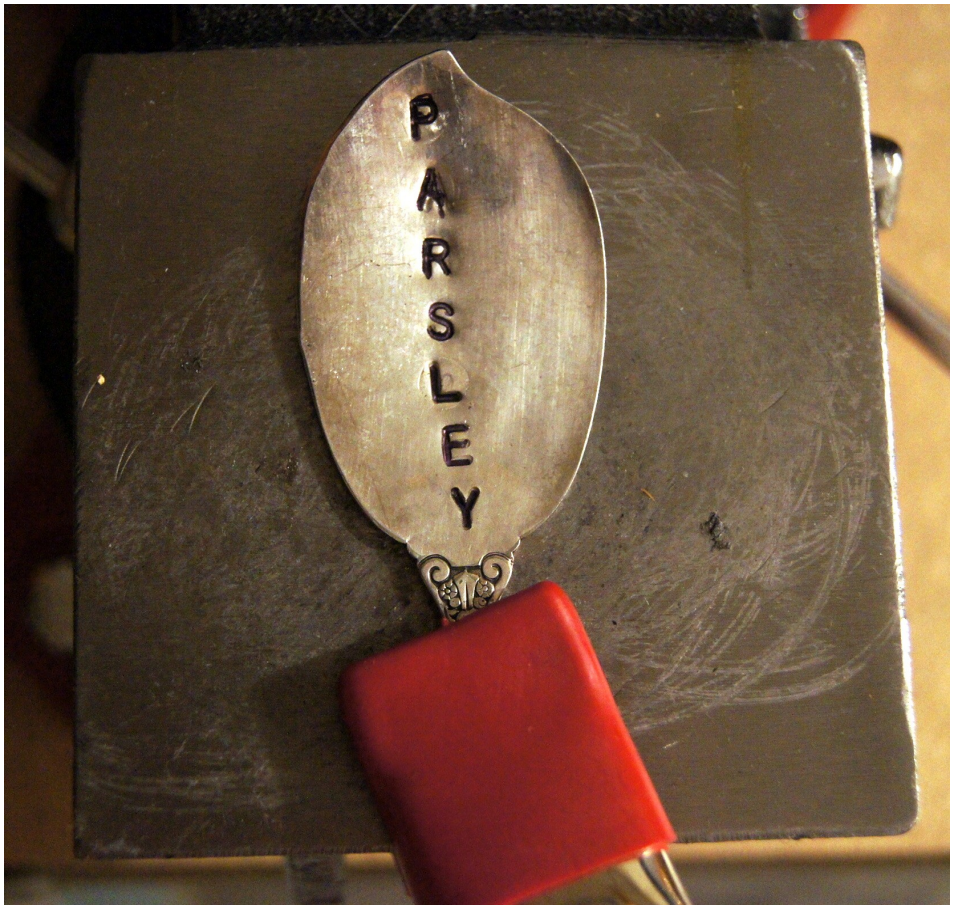
   <u>I found it easiest to do the following:</u>
   - Wear a glove in the hand that holds the stamp
   - Use the hammer, not the mallet
   - For me, smacking the stamp about 4 times really hard left the best and most consistent imprint, anymore than that and I moved the stamp a little bit causing a shadow effect that wasn't the best





4. With your permanent marker pen, trace the letters in the stamped area.

   This effect really makes those letters POP! I am not actually sure how long the letters will stay highlighted, but you can always collect all of your utensils at the beginning of the season and go over the letters again!



5. Place the markers around the garden and enjoy!





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