

Frequently Asked Questions

What are your pieces made from?

All of the colored/patterned/printed metal in my work comes from decorative tin cans. Things like cookie tins that you buy at Michael's then fill with holiday treats for your friends. Loose tea is often sold in metal containers as well as cookies, crackers, and of course, curiously strong mints. Once I started looking I realized that loads of things are packaged this way. Even board games now come in fancy metal boxes. If it's still unclear, you can see some examples on my blog of the tins before I've cut them up. (<http://tinyurl.com/5krzzt>)

Where do you find the tins?

Mostly I get them at my favorite last call thrift store. I dig through bins mounded with cast off items and find buried treasure on a regular basis. The longer I've been at this the more tins mysteriously find their way to my front step, are schlepped on long car trips to my house or are saved until the next time I visit.

Do you paint the metal yourself?

For some reason, this is a really common question. NO. I most certainly do not do any painting in my work. Sometimes I will take a flat colored tin and etch in some line work to make the surface more interesting, but that is the extent of my manipulation of the surfaces. All the colors/textures/patterns/images are found and used exactly as they appeared on the tin. What's somewhat unbelievable is just how vast the range of colors/textures/patterns/images really is. I'm getting to the point where I believe that just about any human thought, action, achievement or belief has been printed on metal at some point.

Are the pieces durable?

As with most types of mixed media adornment, some precautions should be taken. Almost every adaptive reUse piece contains at least some printed 'tin.' Without getting into technical details, 'tin' in this day and age is really just steel. Steel is a ferrous

metal, which means it contains iron, which means it can rust. For the most part, the paint and finishes that are applied to printed containers protect the metal from rusting. However, I would not wear any of my pieces in the shower or while swimming. Many of the necklaces are made with wood and Formica®, so those should most definitely not get wet. It is also possible to scratch the finish off, but I've rarely done that myself and most of the pieces have survived multiple falls and lots of handling and jostling. Other than that, I've found the pieces to be pretty tough and the finishes to hold up surprisingly well.

My piece needs to be repaired.

What should I do?

No matter how hard I try, sometimes jump rings come apart or tiny rivets just stop holding for some reason. It's a frustration to me too, but I am always happy to take the piece back and fix it, if at all possible. I keep a large amount of metal on hand, so it's usually easy to cut a new circle if one has gone missing. If a rivet has come undone, it's usually possible to replace it. If you have a problem with one of your pieces, please get in touch with me so we can figure out a solution.

I have a tin I really like. Can you make something for me from it?

Quite possibly. Shoot me an email with a picture of the tin (if you have one) and we can discuss the possibilities.

I think I like your work, but I feel like I really need to see the actual pieces. Do you sell in stores?

Yes, for the latest list of stores where my work is available, check my site: www.adaptivereuser.com/news.html.

Do you sell your items wholesale?

Certain lines are available for wholesale. Please email me for the latest information.