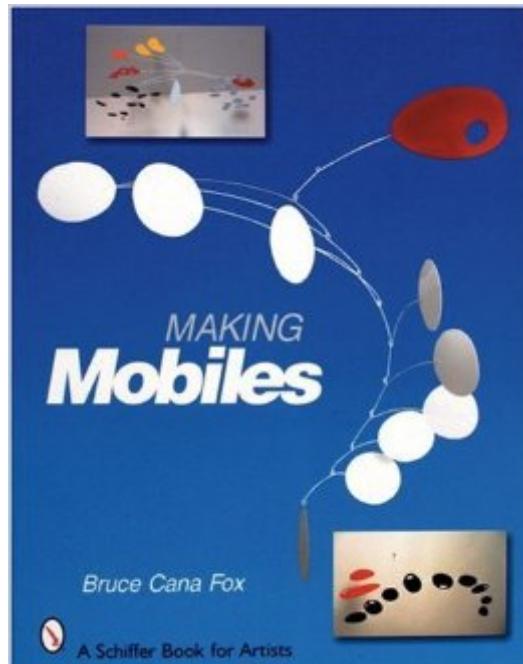


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# Making Mobiles (Schiffer Book For Artists)



## Synopsis

When observing an especially beautiful mobile, beginning artists often think, Wow, I want to make one like THAT! If you have stood under a mobile by Alexander Calder and entertained such thoughts, this book will help you make one like that. This guide provides practical and encouraging step-by-step instructions for making horizontally balanced mobiles. From assembling the materials and tools through the designing, fabricating, assembly, painting, and hanging stages, you can create your own mobiles, with Bruce at your side the whole time. His 19 carefully written chapters and 190 color photographs let you see and understand all the stages toward creating your mobiles. He even shows you how to fix a mistake and pack it for shipping. By following Brucies steps and positive attitude, hours of fun and challenge will be rewarded with art you are proud of.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #61,800 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Sculpture > Appreciation #384 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Technology #1596 inÂ Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering

## Customer Reviews

MAKING MOBILES by Bruce Cana Fox is the best book on that art/craft that I have encountered. I made a mobile in the many years ago using John Lynch's How to Make Mobiles as my guide. When I wanted to get back into the practice I did a lot of research on the net. The truth is: there just isn't a whole lot out there for the beginner. I used Making Creative Mobiles by Timothy Rose to get me going. But then, thank God, I discovered MAKING MOBILES by Fox. It is brilliant in every facet of instruction. From steering you to the best tools and materials to explaining which techniques work best and in what order, Fox is an artist willing and able to lead you through the steps of his craft in a way that sticks. The photos in his book surpass anything else I have found in my research. The

reader sees how the elements of a mobile are cut, connected, finished and hung in large photos that, like Fox's commentary, anticipate the junctures at which a novice can easily go wrong. A word about Fox's commentary--his is a wise and witty voice, cajoling and encouraging the novice who fears making a mistake; or challenging the mobile maker stuck at the designing stage with new ways of creating mobile designs. I found myself laughing at several points in the text and wishing that I could meet the man behind the words, an artist whose humanity is woven throughout the contents of this terrific book.

While I'm sure this is a fabulous book -- the photos are numerous and precise, the directions are, too -- I am returning it because it is only about making mobiles with metal. The product description does not mention this at all. A review mentioning "sheet metal" appeared after I put this book in my shopping cart; if I'd seen that earlier, I would not have ordered this book. What I was looking for was basic instruction on the design of mobiles of any materials, especially cardboard, cut paper, and whatever else I can concoct for starters. I will try the Tim Rose book now.

I was very disappointed with this book. It is mostly about setting up a metalworking shop, and cutting sheet metal, welding, etc than with the balance, design, and artistic nature of mobiles. There was one page on design, he said that the reader needed to come up with their own forms. Then what do I need this book for? This is misnamed as a book for artists, it is a book for metal workshop hobbyists. I returned it.

This book is well done, and is filled with very helpful color photos. Its biggest potential weakness is that about 50% of the content is about the specific technique that the author has developed over the years for creating his mobiles. This involves aluminum sheets, small aluminum welding rods, and aluminum rivets, which essentially requires access to a large commercial metal wholesaler that is willing to deal with retail customers; allowing them hands-on examination of their materials to discover what will work best. This option isn't available to me, but even though I've decided to go with a different technique (galvanized wire and edge-drilled 1/8" Luan plywood) I don't regret buying the book. The most valuable information was on making the wire connection loops and adjusting them to achieve balance. This information gave me the confidence to build my first mobile. I also found the section on painting useful.btw - Since artistic design is not one of my strengths I needed a way to compensate. I've discovered that there are many mobiles for sale on the Internet, and if you download a photo of a design you want to replicate and use a free program named Rasterbator you

can create a full-scale printout of the design with any desired dimension. The design is printed in a tiled fashion on multiple pieces of paper that must be taped together. The taping is a little tedious and the result is a little "fuzzy" and requires some hand touch-up, which can give you the satisfaction of modifying the design with your personal touches such that it is not an exact copy.

When I decided to buy this book, I thought that it would teach me everything from the start for making a mobile. This did not come true, even though I found the book fascinating to read and also because of the stunning photographs. The only thing that it missed was, for me, the very beginning of the process of making a mobile. But then I found another book which taught me 'the missing links', i.e. the beginning of the building of the mobile itself. This second book has been written by Timothy Rose and its title is 'Making Creative Mobiles'. Between them, these two books taught me everything I needed to know.

The author gives very detailed, step-by-step instructions about how to construct the various elements of a mobile. The photos are very helpful also. I enjoyed the author's running commentary -- humorous (whether he intended it to be or not), insightful and thoughtful. The only thing that would have improved the book is if the author had written a chapter on how to actually DESIGN a mobile, starting from scratch. It fell short there. Otherwise, a great book! Guess what my granddaughter is getting for Christmas? John

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