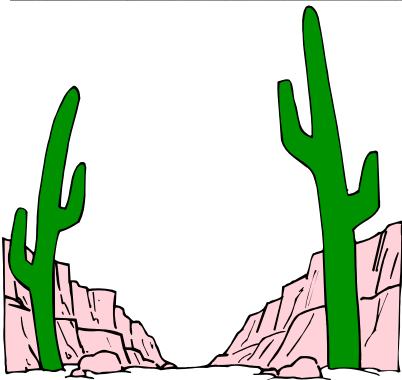
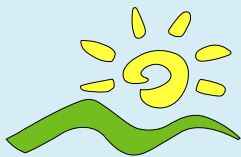




Saguaro Cactus Mirror Frame



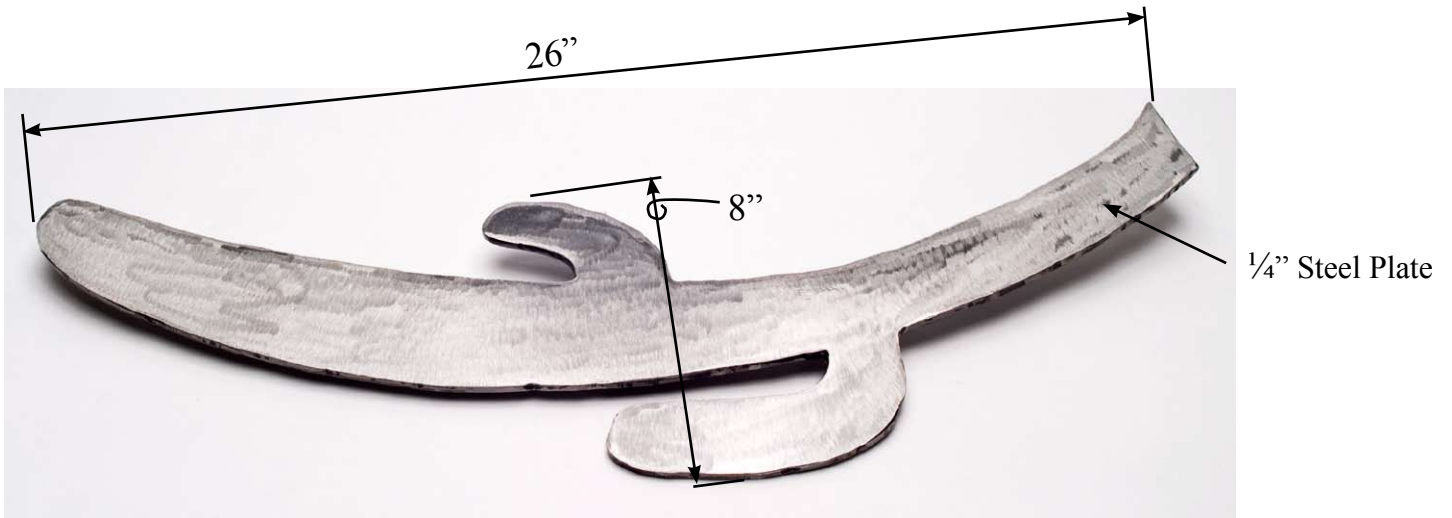
The saguaro cactus clip art is what I used as the model for the mirror frame. The dimensions shown are for general perspective. Feel free to change them to fit your specific needs.



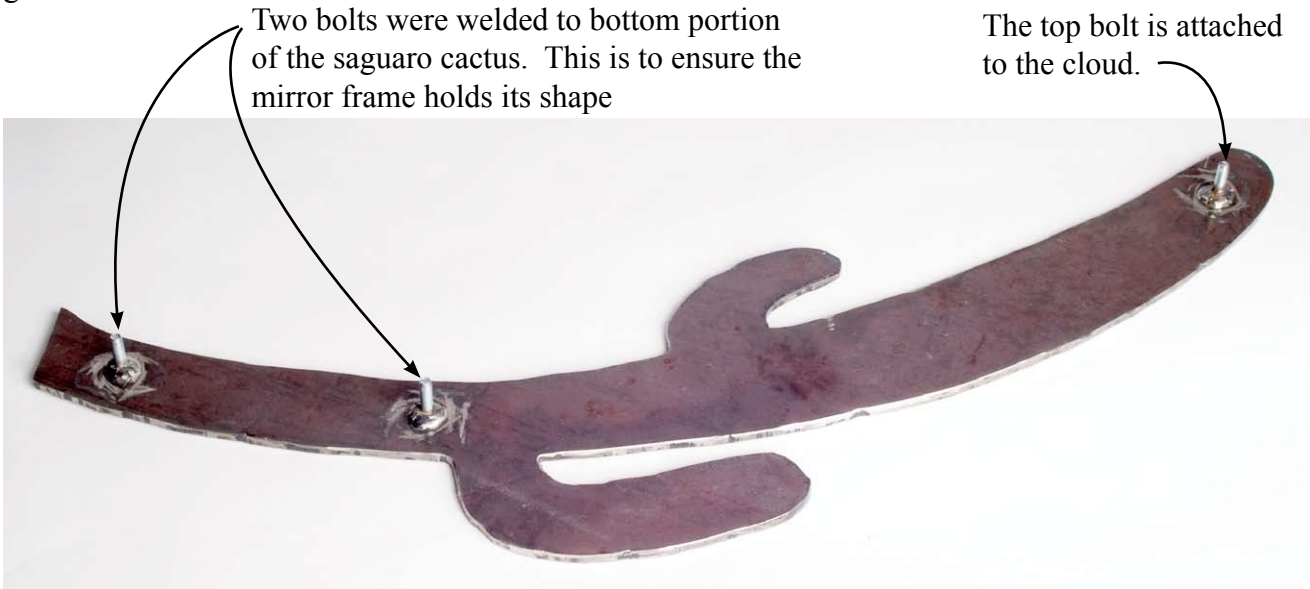
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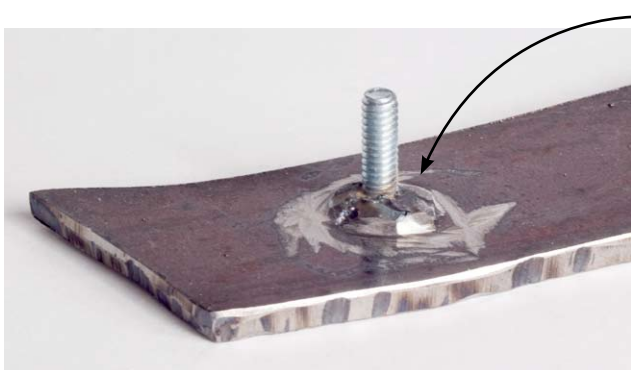


The saguaro cactus was cut out of 1/4" steel plate. A grinder was used to remove the mill scale leaving the shiny metal surface. To preserve the shiny appearance, an automobile clear coat was sprayed over the metal surface. I like using Du Pont ChromaClear Super Productive. Du Pont claims it to be the world's fastest air dry / low bake clear coat. Since I am always spraying small areas, I like the 3 to 5 minute flash time between coats. This allows me to spray multiple coats in a relatively short time leaving a smooth glossy surface. With it being a automotive clear coat, it provides the same protection as your car finish. I have use other automotive clear coats with good success.



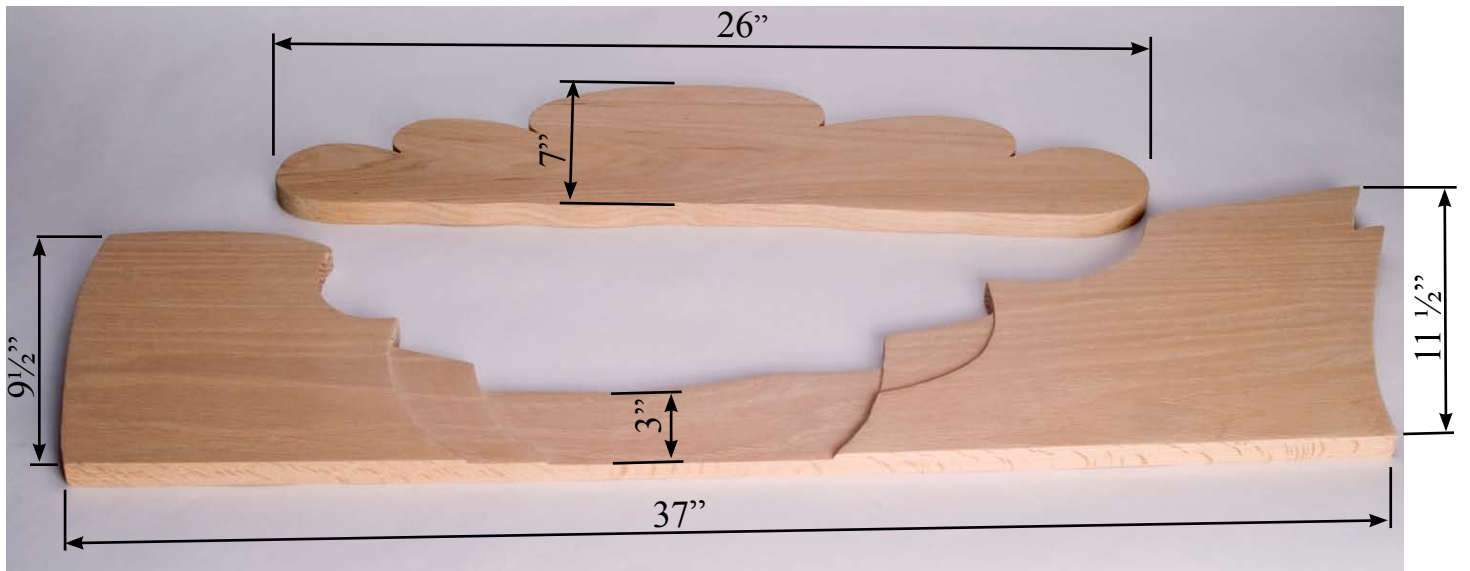
Two bolts were welded to bottom portion of the saguaro cactus. This is to ensure the mirror frame holds its shape

The top bolt is attached to the cloud.



The head of the bolt was welded to the steel plate. This resulted in a large area that will project into the oak wood. You will need to use a router to provide a recess pocket in the wood for the bolt head and the weld. In retrospect, I would recommend using a bolt cutter to cut the length of bolt needed. The bolt cutters will leave a chisel point reducing the size of the weld.





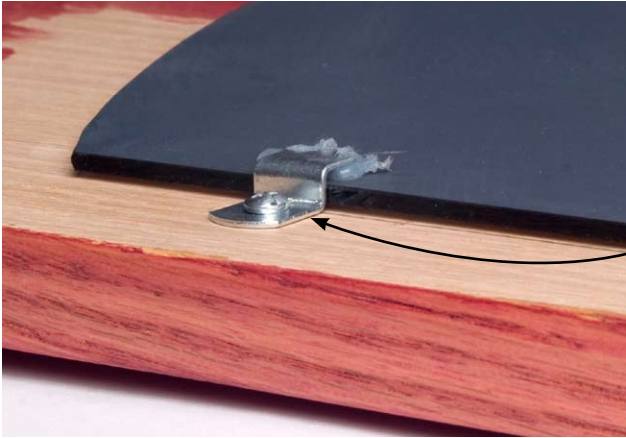
I use oak for the wood portion of the mirror frame. To add a three dimensional look to the mesa, I used a router to vary the depth of the mesa.



I used a router to provide the recessed area for the bolt heads and nuts.



The mirror was cut to follow the outside curvature of the mirror frame. If you do not have experience cutting glass, you may want to have someone else cut the mirror.



The mirror clips are used to hold the mirror. I purchased them at a local home improvement center. The mirror clips are actually for a thicker piece of glass so I used silicone to fill the gap.



The backside of the saguaro cactuses were painted black so their reflection would not show up in the mirror



A couple other examples of mirrors. When you combine the different art mediums, you can make some unique mirrors. Hopefully these examples inspires you to experiment and come up with your own unique mirror.

Instead of the saguaro cactuses, lightning bolts were used. The lightning bolts were cut out of aluminum and attached to the oak using wood screws.

This mirror shows the possibilities when you combine various art mediums.

- Copper
- Aluminum
- Fused Glass
- Plastic
- Paint steel
- Paint wood

