

# Steam Punk

Pat MacRae - Northern Border District

Steam Punk. I thought this was a made up word and was thinking of ideas whilst away on a cruise. A picture in the art auction inspired me, it was a fox playing the piano with the flying keyboard. Soon as I saw it I thought Steam Punk and could not wait to start but of course with a rabbit pianist.



Trial and error - I made an upright piano from a fruit cake that was handy but it didn't like all that weight on its narrow edge and seeped. I made a celebration mud cake, stood it up and began thinking. How to support it all. Did up a sketch and approached hubby and this is the base cake support.

The cake was cut into slim loaf shapes and a block for the piano stool. These were covered and slid into place and there it was ready to be decorated at last.



Time to start thinking again... Lets see if the internet knows Steam Punk and yes, here's a whole new world. Cogs, wheels, pipes, odd fashions, black eyes.

Its a combination of decorative items from Victorian era, steam power, to now, featuring lots of metallic colour and black and silver. I urge you to look it up on Pinterest and see photos of all the interesting craft items, clothing, furniture and PIANOS.

The flying keyboard is made by rolling white paste onto black ribbon and the edges almost fell off because of the firm selvedge of the ribbon. It was set to dry on a high heel shoe support. Cut marks for the keys and tiny black additions for the black keys.



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The piano legs are wound with 'water pipes', the odd gold keys you can see are piped freehand, ornaments cut and dusted with metallic powder attached with royal, bunny is freehand built up from piano stool bit by bit and you may guess there is a skewer in the leg that is supposed to be tinkling the ivories.

I investigated all my moulds that might be useful and began making all the decorative items along with miniature flowers as the pics of Victorian pianos always had a huge dangling flower arrangement on top. The judges comment on mine was not enough steam punk features.

Maybe you'd like to see the best in show cake. This was by Jacquie Goldstaiz who tells of her inspiration too.

**Hippocampus** a comment from Jacquie Goldstaiz

**Inspiration:** A part of the human brain is called the Hippocampus.

It is involved in memory, learning and emotion. Because of its shape it's takes its name from the Greek word Hippocampus, meaning "Seahorse".

Steam Punk Art to me.....is like regurgitating, old bits and pieces...memories and emotions that were once stored within this part of the brain and turning it into something else !!

