

# R.E.D. project

## ROOTS OF THE EUROPEAN DESIGN RESEARCH

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Culture



## Tinkering

A typically Slovak folk craft originally served as a door-to-door mending of the kitchen utensils, manufacturing and sale of tin and wire products.

Its emergence in the 18th and 19th centuries was justified by the economic and social conditions in the poorest parts of Slovakia. The cradle of tinkering was the area of Trencin and Kysuce, from where men were leaving to find some work in Bohemia and Silesia in the 18th century. That is where they gained their knowledge about wire qualities which they later used in tinkering. Their number is estimated from 5,000 to 10,000 during the times of the biggest boom.

Originally, the tinkers mended the pottery by putting the wire into the holes. They were mending clay and tin utensils, later they manufactured mouse traps, wire baskets, different kitchen and flat accessories and tins produce. The manufacture of carrier constructions of flower decorations at funerals, festivities and in park design led to the manufacture of the objects which, with improved techniques, developed into a separate artistic expression specific for the Slovak tinkering. Tinkering and sheet metal work was both an additional and main occupation at times.

Currently, they are still used in folk crafts, in production of decoration objects, but artists such as Slavomir Pecuch, Simon Misurda who create contemporary forms using wire apply these arts as well.





