

Pair of Gold Discs

Tedavnet, Co. Monaghan.

Early Bronze Age, 2200-2000 BC.

Ground Floor

Ór - Ireland's Gold Exhibition

Gold discs are generally found in pairs. These discs were discovered in the roots of an old tree.



Size-Diameter 11.3 and 11.5cm; weight 22.5 and 22.8 grams.

Material

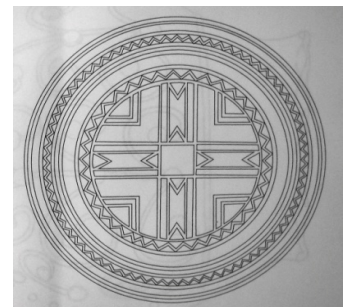
- Gold hammered into thin sheets.

Form

- The circular form of the discs resembles an abstract **stylised** image of the sun.
- Each disc is slightly domed at the centre.

Decoration

- The discs are decorated with a large, central, **cruciform motif**, triangles and rows of raised **punched** dots.
- The central **cruciform** motif is surrounded by radiating **concentric** circles of zigzags, hatched triangles and dots.



Detail on the discs (*drawn by Graphic Design Dept. NMI*)

Technique

- The circular shape was cut from a thin, beaten sheet of hammered gold.
- The decoration is created by the metal working techniques of **repoussé** and **punching**.
- **Repoussé** is the term used to refer to when decoration was hammered into raised relief from the reverse (back) side of the metal.
- **Punching** is the term used when decoration was created by using a sharp pointed instrument to punch into the metal circular marks or dots.

Function

- Two small central perforations/holes indicate that the discs were stitched to a garment for decorative purposes.