

# Bag Charm Project



In this bag charm project learn an updated cloisonné method using resin instead of enamel. By Clare John

*Clare says: "I love using colour in jewellery and resin is the perfect way to do it, the colour you mix is the colour you get. Cloisonné enamel is an ancient technique for keeping enamel colours separate. In traditional cloisonné enamel, fine wires are glued into place with gum tragacanth to create little enclosed 'fields' on a piece of jewellery and the enamel is packed into the 'fields' and fired. For this project I have glued silver plated jump rings into a heart blank to create the 'fields' and filled them with resin which doesn't need firing. Because resin starts as a liquid it is normally difficult to keep colours separate but this technique means that each colour remains clean and unblemished. It is important to use epoxy glue as this will not react with the resin, which is also epoxy. If you aren't confident that you can keep each colour clean you could let each colour set before adding more colours. I have used a mix of transparent, sparkle and pearl effect resins in this summery flower."*

## TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- ✓ 7mm round silver plated jump rings
- ✓ Silver plated heart blank
- ✓ Two part slow setting epoxy glue
- ✓ Cocktail sticks
- ✓ Acrylic block
- ✓ Blu-Tack
- ✓ Arretil barrier cream
- ✓ Plastic cups
- ✓ Mixing sticks
- ✓ Digital scales
- ✓ Kitchen roll
- ✓ 15g bottle orange transparent resin
- ✓ 30g jar pink sparkle resin
- ✓ 30g jar of white pearl effect resin
- ✓ 15g bottle of hardener with pipette
- ✓ Tweezers
- ✓ Bag clip and beads
- ✓ 0.8mm round silver plated wire
- ✓ Pliers
- ✓ Metal snips
- ✓ Cook's torch (optional)

## STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

### STEP 1



Take seven jump rings and make a flower design. Glue into position using slow drying epoxy glue so that you have time to position the rings in the right place. Remove excess glue with a cocktail stick and make sure the glue is set before you move on to the next step - this will mean no resin leaks into the wrong place.

## STEP 2



Fix the heart onto an acrylic block with Blu-Tack. Then if you need to move it you will not get your fingers in the resin. Apply barrier cream to hands and follow health and safety - no eating or drinking while using resin. Put a plastic cup on the scales and turn on. Put 1g of pink sparkle resin into the cup using a mixing stick.

## STEP 3



Add 0.5g of hardener to the pink sparkle and mix well. Weigh out 1g of orange transparent resin into another cup; add 0.5g of hardener and mix. Next make a mix of 2g of white pearl resin with 1g of hardener and mix. The resin is always mixed by weight and the formula is two parts resin to one part hardener.

## STEP 4



Take a cocktail stick and put a drop of orange transparent mix into the centre ring. Put drops of the pink sparkle into the flower petals. Finally put white pearl in the area around the flower and make sure none goes over the edges. Clean tools with kitchen roll.

## STEP 5



If you see any air bubbles in the resin you can poke them out with a pin or cocktail stick. If you have a cook's torch or jewellery torch you could sweep a gentle flame over the surface to draw the bubbles out. (Do this on a baking tin to avoid setting fire to anything.) Leave the heart in a warm place for the resin to set overnight.

## STEP 6



Make a clear resin mix of 2g resin and 1g hardener and put this over the whole piece tight to the outside edge. This is the final domed layer and it enhances the colours and protects the rings. Leave to set as above. When the piece is ready attach the bag clip and beads with wire and jump rings and your bag charm is ready to go.

### DESIGNER TIPS

**Tip 1:** Resin sets gradually, turning from liquid through to 'honey' consistency, to 'toffee', to hard and shiny. When you have put the resin in your piece put a little drop beside it so you can test to see what stage it's at without ruining your piece.

**Tip 2:** Any left-over resin can be put into little bezels, which can be added to the bag charm.