

Tropical pendant

This reversible silver pendant uses soldered wire to create a tropical piece; one side depicts daytime and the other sunset.



By Clare John

I love making jewellery and prefer silver to gold. I am inspired by paintings and photographs to add vivid colour to my work, I like to use resin because the technique is not too complicated yet looks professional. In this advanced piece I am using the 'cloisonné' technique with soldered wires and shapes on a silver pendant. Resin starts as a liquid and so it is difficult to stop colours blending into each other without a barrier such as the wire. I was inspired by my cousin's photographs of Belize and chose to make a two sided pendant. One side shows daytime sea colours and the reverse shows wonderful evening sunset colours. If you are interested in attending a resin class visit <http://www.cjresins.co.uk/>



Designer Tips

Make sure all the wires are completely soldered to avoid resin leaking

Do all soldering and polishing before adding resin - it can't withstand torch heat

Roll silver solder through rolling mills to make it thinner and easier to cut

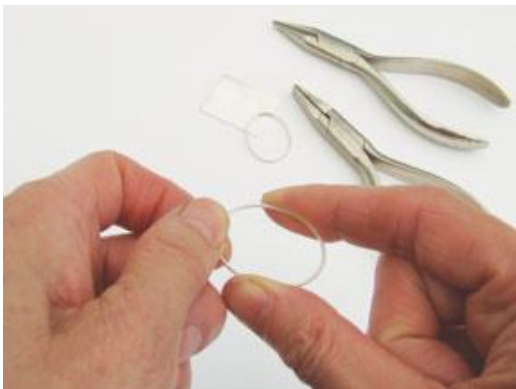
Tools & Materials

- 36mm x 28mm 0.8mm Silver sheet
- 65cm 1mm round silver wire
- Hard and easy silver solder
- 15gm orange transparent resin
- 15gm pink transparent resin
- 15gm violet transparent resin
- 15gm blue transparent resin
- 30gm green sparkle resin
- 30gm satin white pearl resin
- 15gm hardener
- Ring mandrel
- Piercing saw and blades
- Scriber
- Dividers
- Drill and 1mm drill bit
- Files - needle and large
- Buff stick & buff/sand paper
- Pliers
- Snips
- Flux and flux brush
- Soldering torch
- Soldering blocks
- Soldering tweezers
- Pickling acid and pickle tweezers
- Planishing hammer
- Barrel polisher
- Flat plate
- Plastic cups, mixing sticks
- Miniature scales
- Acrylic block and blu tack



Step 1

Take the wire and anneal if necessary. Turn up two circles on a ring mandrel so that the inside diameter is 25mm. Cut and solder the circles with hard solder, clean them in safety pickle, wash, dry and put them back on the mandrel to make them round. Check that they are the same size and adjust if necessary.



Step 2

Gently squeeze the two circles with your fingers to make them oval making sure the solder joint is on the shorter side, then you will not get a 'kink' in the long side. To make the oval shapes match each other adjust the curves with pliers. Clean one side of the wire ovals with emery paper and file any excess solder off the inside of the oval.



Step 3

Solder an oval onto the silver sheet with hard solder, away from the edge all round and with a wide space at the top of the sheet - this will be drilled for the jumpring. Use two bits of soldering block and put the pendant as a bridge so the heat can circulate. Heat the silver sheet first; once the sheet is hot put the wire in place, this will stop the wire from overheating.



Step 4

After pickling the piece, mark and drill a hole at the top using a Dremel or similar tool with a 1mm drill bit. Make sure the hole is in the centre of the pendant and check that the 1mm wire will go through it comfortably. If it does not, then make the hole bigger with a round needle file.



Step 5

Now mark a line all round the outside of the wire using a pair of dividers to get an even width. Mark round the hole you have just drilled and then cut out the shape of the pendant using a piercing saw. The edge outside the wire is to make it easier to solder the wire on the reverse. File the edges so that they are even and smooth.



Step 6

Turn over the pendant and clean the surface with emery or wet and dry paper on a buff stick. If there is any fire stain try and remove it with buffing. Solder the second oval onto the back - again heat the pendant before putting the wire in place. Use hard silver solder and plenty of flux.



Step 7

While the pendant is in the pickle, make three different sized jumpings by turning up the wire round metal rods such as drill bits. Make 4 large, 6 or 7 medium and 6 or 7 small rings. Solder them and then sand one side to make it slightly flat this will make a good solder joint on the pendant.



Step 8

Solder half the jumpings to the pendant on one side with hard solder. Heat the pendant before putting the rings on in twos and threes. Make sure they are well soldered. Arrange the rings into a random 'bubble' pattern. Pickle the pendant, turn over, solder the remaining rings. Put the pendant into the pickle again, wash and dry.



Step 9

Put it on a flat plate and gently tap it with a planishing hammer or other clean flat hammer. This will flatten the rings and wire slightly and make sure there are no gaps for the resin to flow through. File and buff the edges of the pendant round the hole at the top so that it has a smooth rounded edge.



Step 10

Solder a large jumping through the drilled hole with easy solder. After pickling, wash, buff the edges of the pendant and clean up the rim outside the wire frame. Then polish the pendant in a barrel polisher. It could be polished on a polishing mop if you want a higher shine. Make sure the pendant is dry and grease free before putting the resin in.



Step 11

Mix 1gm violet transparent resin with 0.5gm hardener and put into the main part of the pendant. Let the resin set and then make 2 mixes of 1gm orange and 1gm pink transparent resin each with 0.5gm hardener and put into the 'bubbles' in a random pattern. By leaving the violet to set first you won't get any mixing of the colours. Let the resin cure overnight.



Step 12

Turn the pendant over and put dark blue transparent resin in the main part - dark blue is made with blue and violet mixed. Leave to set before adding the other colours. Then add white pearl mix and green sparkle to the 'bubbles'. Each resin mix should be 1gm resin to 0.5gm hardener. Let the resin cure overnight and the pendant is ready to wear.

Resources

All the resin items can be found on Clare's website: <http://www.cjresins.co.uk/> | 01242 602739
Silver and tools from: Cookson Gold <http://www.cooksongold.com/> | 0845 100 1122