

Custom Copper Jewelry – 3 Mix & Match Techniques

Creating artful accessories from copper can be fast, affordable and fun. Mix and match techniques to make projects to show off your personal style. Get started with metal etching, metal stamping and metal enameling, then consider combining these techniques for truly one of a kind projects.



Metal Etching



Metal Stamping



Metal Enameling



Stamped and enameled pendant by artist
Linda Stanek of Steinvika Enamels

Metal Etching:

Supplies:

#5386 Metal Etching Starter Kit
Duct Tape or Packaging Tape
Bare Copper Wire
Glass or Plastic Dish

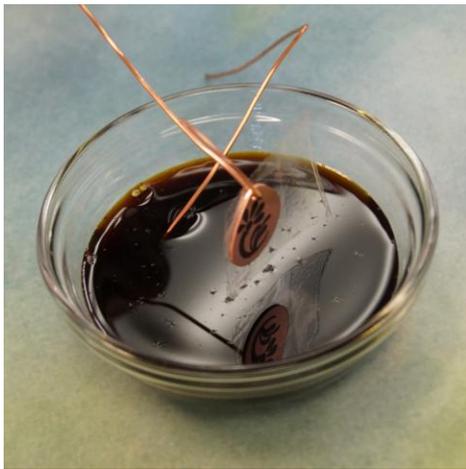
1. Clean copper shapes with Penny Brite copper cleaner. Rinse well and dry with a clean, lint free cloth.
2. Use a marking pen to draw designs onto metal. The areas covered by pen are masked and will not be etched – so be sure to get good pen coverage.
3. Mask any surfaces that you don't want etched at all (such as reverse sides) with duct tape or packaging tape. Be sure tape is sealed smoothly to copper.
4. Attach bare copper wire (either form a hook through a pre-drilled hole, or tape to masked area).



5. Suspend your copper shape in a glass or plastic container filled with ferric chloride.

NOTE: Ferric chloride is a caustic chemical. Safety glasses and rubber gloves should be used when handling. Keep out of reach of pets and children.

6. Let soak for 30 – 90 minutes to etch depending on the depth of the etching you wish to achieve.
7. Remove projects from ferric chloride and rinse in water.
8. Apply baking soda to neutralize ferric chloride and scrub marking pen from surface of copper.



Wear your etched copper project as-is or dress it up! Apply patina to make your design pop, or consider adding metal enameling. Transparent enamel colors will settle into etched areas, creating a deeper hue in those areas and allowing your design to show through.

Metal Stamping:

Supplies:

#5017 Metal Stamping Starter Kit

Additional Metal Stamp Designs (optional)

1. Select your metal stamps to create the message or design desired for your project.
2. Plan placement and spacing on your copper pre-cut. A piece of tape or marker can be used to make a guideline for placement.
3. Place the copper shape on the bench block.
4. Align the stamp, making sure it is rotated correctly for your design. Position straight up and down, resting against the copper shape.
5. Strike firmly with the chasing hammer to imprint your design.
6. Repeat with additional stamps to complete your design.



Wear your metal stamped project as-is or dress it up! Apply patina to make your design pop, or consider adding metal enameling. Transparent enamel colors will settle into etched areas, creating a deeper hue in those areas and allowing your design to show through.

Metal Enameling:

Supplies:

#75836 Sparex

#8598 Delphi Metal Enamels Beginner Kit

#75812 Economy Enameling Kiln

Or

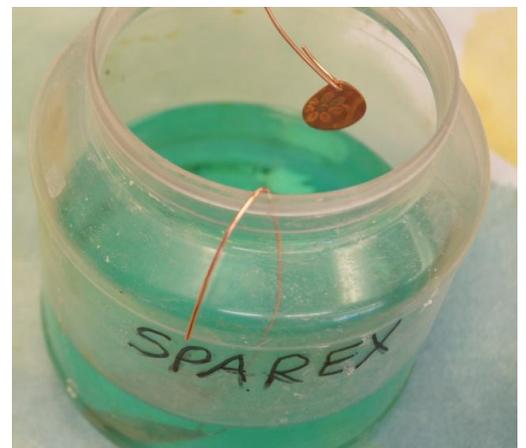
#75840 Enameling Beginner's Kit

Or

#75849 Copper Enamel Starter Kit

Bare Copper Wire

1. Mix Sparex according to package directions in a glass or plastic container.
2. Hang your copper shapes on bare copper wire and suspend in the Sparex solution for 15 minutes or longer as needed to clean.
3. Rinse copper shapes and dry with a lint-free cloth.



If you are using pre-mixed Milton Bridge Enamels for Delphi:
Apply enamels to clean copper surface directly from enamel pens, with brushes, or with Wipe Out Tool to create your design.



If you are using powder enamels:
Use a spray bottle to apply Klyr-Fire or another binding agent to the surface of the copper.
NOTE: Inhaling powder enamels is harmful, always wear an appropriate respirator when handling powders.
Powder enamels can be sifted onto the prepared copper surface, or mixed with a binding agent and painted on.

4. Apply enamel and allow to dry completely.
5. Position on trivet and fire in enameling furnace or kiln until enamel surface becomes gloss.
6. Remove from kiln, allow to cool. Remove fire scale by soaking in Sparex and scrubbing with an abrasive cleansing pad. Use an alundum stone to clean edges.



Create stunning enamel jewelry using a variety of enamel techniques, or combine enameling with Metal Etching or Metal Stamping to make personalized projects.