

Seaside Keyring Stamping Project

by Janet Royle

Make your very own seaside inspired keyring with the help of ImpressArt and jewellery designer Janet Royle.



Step 1

Plan your design

Plan out your design by drawing around the blank and use this as a template for ideas, thinking about your theme and lettering.



Step 2

Make a hole

Mark where a hole is required and use your punch to cut out a 1/8" hole.



What you'll need:



Copper blanks 15cm	860 222A
Silver keyring	NVG 955
ImpressArt Newsprint lower case letter stamp set 4mm	999 IA57
ImpressArt picture 6mm stamps	999 IA24, 999 I151, 999 I147, 999 IA04, 999 IA25 and 999 IA82
ImpressArt tape	999 IA67
ImpressArt stamping ink	999 I125
ImpressArt 2 hole punch	999 IA68
8mm split rings	NVG 908X
Flexible polishing board set	975 055
Cotton buds	
Tissue / soft cloth	
Optional:	
Silver washers	NVJ 590X
5mm round wire	HSA 150
Small round pliers	999 697
Snipe nose pliers	999 693
Flush cutters	997 3027
Beads (eg Cooksongold 8mm fused glass beads)	

Step 3

Polish up

Lightly pre-polish the blank using the medium buffing pad. This provides a clearer surface to stamp on.



Step 4

Take aim...

Place the blank on your block. Here we are stamping 'freehand', so to make it a little easier why not write the lettering on the blank as a guide.



Tip: Make sure the stamps have the ImpressArt logo facing you for correct orientation. If your stamps don't have this write the letter on each one so that when it is facing you, it is in the correct position to stamp. Easy!



Step 5

...fire!

Hold the stamp level against the blank and hit once firmly with the hammer. Practise on some scrap metal before stamping your final piece so you can see how hard to hit the stamp, as smaller stamps impress more deeply than larger ones.

If you double hit the hammer you'll end up with a blurred image! Also, don't place stamps too close to the edge of the metal as it will squash the edge.

Tip: Part of the charm of stamped lettering is its hand-worked look, but the letters shouldn't be so out of line that they're hard to read.



Step 6

Stay put

On this next blank, tape is used to make a straight line of lettering. Mark on the tape with lines where the letters are to go. The tape also holds the blank in place on the block.

Step 7

Ink to the groove

Once you are happy with the stamping, use ImpressArt ink to fill in your newly stamped shapes as this will make them stand out more. Carefully apply the ink over each stamping. Leave for 10-15 seconds (no longer than this as it dries quickly), and rub the ink with a cotton bud to ensure that it has gone into the grooves of the stamping, then wipe off with a soft cloth or tissue.

If needed, smooth off the edges and make a final polish with the finest sanding stick (3000 Grit).



Step 8

Optional embellishments

You can now attach the copper blank to the keyring using a small split ring. If you wish to add beads you'll need to make a wire connector. First, make a loop with your nose pliers and twist the end of the wire to secure the hoop.



You are now ready to assemble the keyring using the 8mm split rings.

Step 9

Nearly done...

Place the bead on the wire, make another hoop at the end to secure and snip off the wire with the cutters. (Watch online demonstrations of making these key rings if you have not done this before!)



Step 10

Ta dah!

The finished result - with some variations. We've stamped a silver washer to add further detail. Why not experiment with bead colours and stamp picture themes. Here we've used green and blue glass beads and turquoise shaped beads to go with the sea theme.

