



Beginner



## PROJECT: ENAMELLED NECKLACE PENDANT

By Christine Pearson

### Kit List:

25x 1mm Copper Blank	860 203
1.2mm Sterling Silver Round Snake Chain	VVO R12H
Tripod with Gauze	999 AFM
Mesh Rack	860 092
Half Round File	999 422
Hand Torch	999 955
Bench Peg	999 083D
Opaque Lapis Blue Enamel	860 336
6mm Sterling Silver Jump Ring	NVH L60

3M Radial Abrasive Disc	999 1969
ImpressArt Two Hole Punch	999 I439
Palette Knife	860 100
Mixing Sticks	860 132
Grade 600 Wet & Dry Paper	975 060
Toothbrush	
Tin lid or alternative	
Bowl of water	
Renaissance Wax	998 018R
Face Mask	9PP 002
Safety Glasses	999 244
Half Round Needle File	999 FAD
Rotary Tool Kit	999 3202
Flat Nose Pliers	999 696
Brass Brush	999 173

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### 1: PREPARE YOUR COPPER

Your copper needs to be clean and grease free, otherwise the enamel may not stay on the copper. In this project you will only enamel one side, so only clean that side. Use 600 wet and dry paper to remove any oxides. Then abrade the metal with a brass brush, dampened with water with a small drop of washing up liquid. Finally, use an old tooth brush to remove the soapy water and rinse under running water. If any areas resist the water, re-clean with the brass brush and tooth brush. Dry your metal with a clean paper towel – make sure you do not touch the surface of the copper.

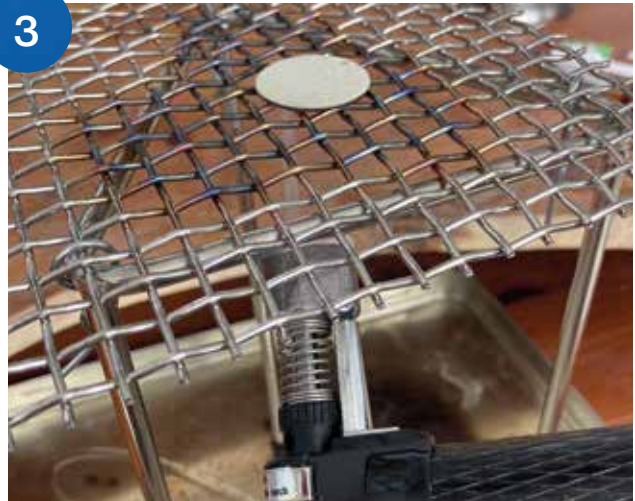
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### 2: ADD THE FIRST LAYER OF ENAMEL

Use a clean, shiny page from a magazine on top of your bench – it's a good idea to do this away from the area where you will use your torch. Rest your copper disc on top of two mixing sticks, or coffee stirrers. Put your first enamel powder into a sifter – wear a face mask to do this. Overlap the edges of the metal as you sift the enamel powder. You're aiming for a thin, even coat. I used Ivory Opaque for my first layers.

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### 3: GET READY TO FIRE

Place your tripod onto a fire proof surface – I use an old biscuit tin lid. Carefully lift your metal using a pallet knife. Your copper with the sifted enamel rests on top of the steel mesh. Fire your copper from underneath – pointing the flame at the underside of the copper at about 45 degrees. Move the flame in a circle to ensure an even heat.

### 4: FIRE

As you heat the copper from underneath you should see the enamel change. During the first stage the enamel will look like sugar, then it will resemble orange peel, before a shiny stage. You can stop at any time to check and restart the process. Remember it will be very hot! Stop at the shiny stage.

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### 5: REMOVE THE LOOSE FIRE SCALE

Leave the copper on the tripod to cool down, then place it into a bowl of water and remove any loose fire scale from the back of the metal. Dry the metal.

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### 6: ADD MORE LAYERS

Add a second and third layer of your base enamel colour following steps 4 and 5. When you have finished with your first colour, carefully tip any loose enamel powder back into the container using the magazine page. Make sure each layer is thin and build up the layers slowly. If the enamel is too thick it will come off.

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### 7: BUILD UP THE COLOURS

Sprinkle a second layer of your second colour to the bottom part of your disc, I used Lapis Blue Opaque. Fire this as before, then add a third sprinkling of colour, I used Blue Black Opaque. You are aiming for a glossy, shiny surface on the enamel. Fire again and leave to cool.

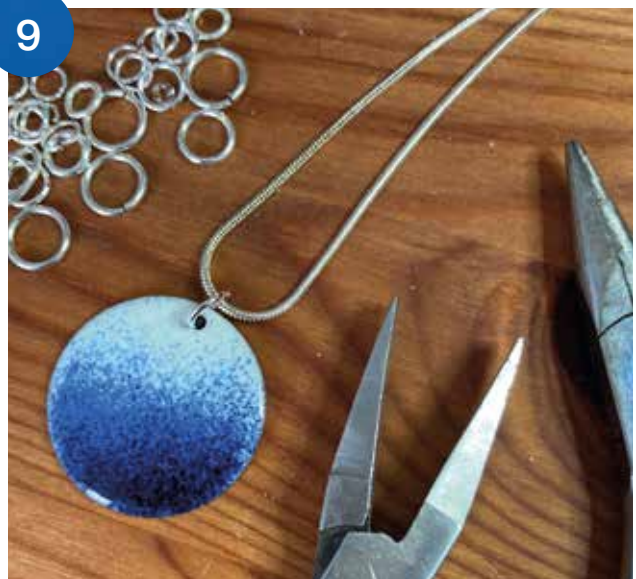
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### 8: CLEAN UP THE COPPER

When you are happy with the colours you can clean the fire scale from the copper. Use a half round file to gently file the edges, taking care not to chip the enamel. Use 600 grit wet and dry to clean the back and edges. I used a course radial disc with a Dremel to finish my piece.

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### 9: FINISH YOUR PENDANT

Copper tarnishes easily, I add Renaissance Wax to help slow this process down. My pendant has a Silver plated snake chain, attached with a 6mm jump ring.

### 10: FINISH YOUR DESIGN

I used a half round needle file and 600 and 1000 grit wet and dry papers to smooth my Silver pendant, before polishing on my polishing motor. Complete the design with the Silver snake chain and 5mm jump ring.