

# Decorating Cooksongold's Ring Blanks

by Janet Royle

*A quick and easy way to personalise ready-made silver ring blanks!*

## Step 1

### Secure the Ring

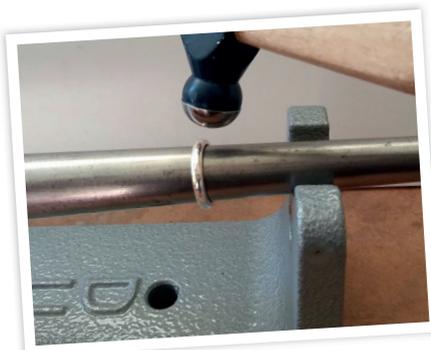
The Durston Ring Mandrel holder will hold your mandrel securely – and hands free – while you add texture or a design to the ring blanks – place your ring on here before you begin stamping.



## Step 2:

### Texturing the Ring

First let's look at texturing the court blank. This has a rounded profile and looks good with a sparkly hammered finish. Place your ring firmly on the mandrel and position the mandrel in the holder. Using the rounded end of a ball pein hammer, hammer evenly on the surface of the ring, turning the mandrel around so that the ring is fully textured all around. (Don't hammer too hard as this will stretch the ring.)



Level of  
design:  
**Beginner**



## What you'll need:

*Sterling Silver Ring Blanks –  
Flat profile - at least 4mm deep (e.g. TSFH 03H)  
Court profile at least 3mm deep (e.g. TSCH 03H)*

*\* Various finger size available to fit your requirements.*

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|--|----------|
| <i>Metal Ring Mandrel</i>  | 997 3617 |
| <i>Durston Mandrel Holder</i>  | 997 176A |
| <i>Heavy Hammer or ImpressArt Stamping Hammer</i>                    | 999 IA98 |
| <i>ImpressArt Letter Stamps 3mm</i>                                  | 999 IA63 |
| <i>ImpressArt Picture Stamps – Hearts and Floral</i>                 | 999 IA82 |
| <i>Jobbing or Ball Pein Hammer</i>                                   | 999 89P  |
| <i>Riveting Hammer</i>   | 999 617  |
| <i>Steel Bench Block</i>   | 999 791  |
| <i>Sheets of Sandpaper</i>   |          |
| <i>240 Grit</i>  | 973 040  |
| <i>600 Grit</i>  | 975 060  |
| <i>1200 Grit</i>   | 973 090  |
| <i>Traditional Wooden Sanding Sticks or Flexible Abrasive Boards</i> | 975 055  |
| <i>Optional:</i>   |          |
| <i>Flexible Rotary Motor</i>   | 999 3203 |
| <i>Barrel Tumbler</i>  | 999 6009 |

## Step 3

### Stamp the Sides

If you wish, place the ring flat onto a steel bench block and continue hammering to texture the sides. (Again don't hammer too hard or you will distort the edge.)



## Step 6

### Hold Stamp Level

It's important to hold the stamp level; though you are working on a curved surface, the stamp will impress by the contact of the ring through to the mandrel. Strike the stamp firmly with the hammer, move the ring round a little and strike again.

Continue like this, turning the mandrel around so that all the surface is stamped. Check now and again to see you are happy with the pattern. The aim is for a random design, so it does not matter if sometimes all of the stamp does not imprint.



*Top Tip: Do not hit too hard at the edges of the ring, or they will be very distorted.*

## Step 4

### Stamping Lines

You can use other hammers to achieve different textures. Here the wedge end of a riveting hammer which will give a line texture.



## Step 7

### Clean the Edges

Once you are happy with the overall design, you may need to clean up the edges. Some bruising where the stamp came close to the edges will be usual.



## Step 5

### Multi-Stamping Pictures

Now to using ring blanks with a flat profile, you can add texture evenly and easily using punches / stamps.

To do this use a stamp with a picture (e.g. flower) to create an interesting pattern by "multi-stamping".



## Step 8

### Sand the Bumps

The easiest way to remove these slightly bumpy edges is to lay a sheet of sandpaper on a flat surface – start with grit around 240. Hold the ring flat with

your fingers and rub firmly in a circular motion. Check the ring after a few rubs – the bumpiness should have gone. Place a sanding sheet with a less coarse grit – e.g. 600 and repeat the process, and finally with an 1200 grit sheet. The edge should now be smooth and shiny.



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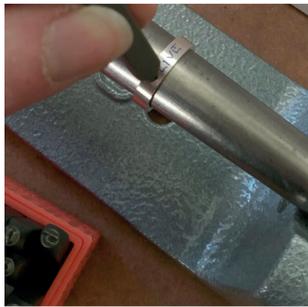
## Step 9

### Stamping Letters

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If you are confident with stamping, you can stamp words or pictures onto the flat profile ring blanks. The important thing is to hold the stamp level so you get a clean strike.

It is useful to mark out your words first or create guides for a pattern with a marker pen.



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## Step 10

### Polishing / buffing

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When you have personalised / textured your ring blank, you will need to spend a little time polishing / buffing the edges and inside to get them to a nice smooth and shiny finish. Use a buffing stick or abrasive flexible sticks.



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## Step 11

### Tumble

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If you have a barrel tumbler, use this to give the rings a final sparkle – and there you have it. Your own personalised professional-looking rings!



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## Extra Idea:

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The ring blanks can also be adapted by soldering on ready-made bezels and adding a stone.

To do this, you will need to file a small flat surface on the blank onto which the bezel will sit. (For more detailed instructions on using ready-made ring bezels on rings, see the Gemstone Stacking Rings project which you can find on our projects page [Cooksongold.com/projects](http://Cooksongold.com/projects))

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