

## Techniques for Creating No-Solder Bezels/Frames



### Copper Restrip Pendant

- Design the base shape:  
Decide where the bezel will be and the placement of any other embellishments.  
Don't forget the loop/bail for hanging the piece (if necessary).
- Using shears, cut base shape from 24-gauge sheet metal. Shape and texture metal base. Keep the metal flat using a plastic mallet or rawhide hammer. File corners and finish edges using the ball end of a chasing hammer. Antique.
- Punch holes for hanging, riveting, or attaching charms.
- Shape copper restrip and antique it. Create a rectangular shape using flat-nose pliers to make right angles. Create round shapes using the wrap 'n' tap tool, a dowel or a ring mandrel.
- Superglue the restrip shape together, and pinch with an alligator clip to hold. Once glue has sealed the shape together, place on the prepared metal base. Remember to put the seam on the bottom of the piece.
- The piece must be flat. If the edges don't line up, use a sanding block or file as necessary.
- Superglue the restrip into place on the metal base using a toothpick or small paint brush on the inside and bottom edge of the bezel.
- After glue has dried, daub rubber cement around the outside of the shape to seal. Be liberal with the rubber cement.



### Wire Open-Frame Pendant:

- For open frames, use 16-gauge or 14-gauge wire. Bend wire into desired shape.
- Check to make sure that it is closed on all sides or the resin will escape! Bind ends with smaller wire if needed or close together and 'seal' with rubber cement.
- You can include a swirl or other design element with wire inside the open frame shape. To do this:
  - a) Fold wire 1/3 from the end.
  - b) Fold the short end over to a right angle so it crosses the longer wire.
  - c) Pull the pieces together and wrap the shorter wire around the longer one.
  - d) Make a loop on the top wire and wrap to secure.
  - e) Make a coil out of the remaining wire.
  - f) Shape frame.
- Texture as desired. Lightly flatten long sides, loop or other portions of the design. Be careful not to flatten too much. Antique the frame if desired.
- Place on masking tape, or a piece of a plastic bag that is larger than the frame. The piece needs to be entirely flat. Use tools to flatten wire frames.
- Bend loop away from piece and fill with rubber cement to prevent leakage.
- Paint rubber cement around the outside of the frame to form a seal. Be liberal with the amount of rubber cement and allow it to dry overnight. Make sure to add rubber cement around the wire loop as well.



### **Copper Tubing Open-Frame Pendant:**

- Cut tubing to the desired length. De-burr/file/sand to remove any rough edges.
- Punch a hole for hanging. (sized to match wire!)
- Flatten or create a rivet head on one end of the wire. Insert into the bezel, pull through and wire wrap.
- If desired, antique the whole thing.
- Seal the hole around the wire with rubber cement.
- Place bezel on masking tape, white garbage bag, or packing tape that is larger than the bezel.
- Seal outside of entire piece with rubber cement.



### **Tools & supplies**

safety glasses  
round-nose pliers  
flat-nose pliers,  
bent-nose pliers  
chain-nose  
flush cutters  
bail-making pliers (optional)  
sacrificial wire cutters for cutting steel and trimming hardened resin  
scissors  
metal punches (2 sided metal punch & hand-held metal punch)  
metal shears  
metal files, sandpaper, sanding block, emery boards  
steel block and pad, anvil  
decorative hammers  
utility hammer  
riveting hammer  
plastic or rawhide mallet  
chasing hammer  
decorative and letter stamps  
Sharpie® marker  
ruler  
liver of sulfur  
Bead Fix™ adhesive or other super glue  
copper restrip (from stained glass suppliers)  
copper pipe (from hardware store)  
rubber cement  
white garbage bags (creates glossy background for open frame designs)  
masking or packing tape (creates matte background for open frame designs)  
Mod Podge or Ecoglu and paintbrush (to seal images or words)  
0000 steel wool  
glitter, dried herbs, and other embellishments  
Copyright-free images  
resin mixing supplies (cups and stir sticks)  
EasyCast epoxy resin  
squeeze bottles and tips or syringe  
baby wipes (for cleaning resin from hands)