

Epoxy resins provide a great way to create custom metal bezels and pendant frames without having to solder. This technique sheet covers the basics of how to make a “cold connections” resin pendant using copper restrip, wire, or copper tubing. Happy crafting!

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
- SuperClear resin
- squeeze bottles and tips or syringe
- baby wipes (for cleaning resin from hands)

COPPER RESTRIP PENDANT



Only a Postcard - Necklace
by Amy Mickelson

- 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.
- Place inclusions, add resin and finish pendant.

WIRE OPEN-FRAME PENDANT



Create Art Necklace
Rings & Things Staff

- For open frames, use 16-gauge or 14-gauge wire. Bend wire into desired shape.
- With excess wire at the top of your shape, create a loop for hanging the finished pendant.
- 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 hammer long sides, loop and/or other portions of the design. Be careful not to flatten the wire 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 frame needs to be entirely flat and flush with the table or work surface.
- Bend loop up, 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.
- Place inclusions, add resin and finish pendant.

COPPER TUBING OPEN-FRAME PENDANT



Enchantment Under the Sea - Bracelet
by Sondra Barrington

- Cut tubing to the desired length (this will be the depth of your pendant, front to back). 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.
- Place inclusions, add resin and finish pendant.

FOR MORE ABOUT WORKING WITH RESIN, SEE OUR "EPOXY RESIN 101" TIP SHEET!

#68-007-08

EPOXY RESIN 101

INTRODUCTION

Epoxy resin comes in two parts: the resin and the hardener. When the two parts are mixed together, a chemical reaction occurs that changes the epoxy from a liquid to a solid. Small amounts can be mixed together, but for a project like this, you need to mix a larger amount. The amount of resin and hardener you need to mix is determined by the ratio of the two parts. The ratio is usually 1:1, but it can be different. Check the instructions for the epoxy you are using to be sure you are using the correct ratio. The amount of resin and hardener you need to mix is determined by the ratio of the two parts. The ratio is usually 1:1, but it can be different. Check the instructions for the epoxy you are using to be sure you are using the correct ratio.

SAFETY

- Read and follow manufacturer's instructions and safety precautions.
- Work in a clean and well-ventilated area.
- Depending on materials used, consider wearing a respirator, rubber gloves and eye protection.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for clean up. Disposal of all waste materials in accordance with local regulations.

WORK AREA

- Cover the work area with wax paper or freezer paper. Most resins don't stick to wax paper.
- Prepare a level surface for items to dry on that will not be disturbed.
- Remove any items that may be in the way.
- Cover the curing area so dust does not get on the resin. Use an appropriate amount of tape or other material to seal the edges.

PAPER IMAGES

- To prevent discoloration, seal back sides and edges of the image with clear glue or "Seal-All" Glue-A-Seal. This is especially important if the image is placed on a light-colored paper. Follow the instructions for the image you are using to be sure you are using the correct amount of glue.
- Glue image to surface as per "Seal-All" Glue-A-Seal instructions.
- Remove any items that may be in the way.
- Remove any items that may be in the way.

OTHER EMBEDDED ITEMS

- Flowers and other objects need to be dried before use. Make sure you are using the correct amount of glue.
- Use a clear glue or "Seal-All" Glue-A-Seal to seal the edges of the image.
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STEP-BY-STEP

Here are instructions for making a resin pendant using SuperClear resin, a Piddis image and an Amate Studios® heart-shaped bezel.

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

- 24mm heart-shaped bezel (#46-814-242-48)
- Piddis collage sheet (#83-231-00-001)
- SuperClear Resin (#62-500-000)
- Mixing cups (#82-597)
- Stir sticks (#82-595)
- Disposable plastic cup
- Lighter (use flame to draw out the bubbles)
- Five-pointed star

OPTIONAL paper wicks like Cutler's Pick™ "The Ultimate" (#82-595) adhesive. Piddis collage sheets are printed with a specialty ink, papers do not need to be pre-treated or treated to resist bleeding.

- Gather the tools and supplies necessary to make your SuperClear Resin pendant.
- Cut out the image to fit the size of the bezel interior.
- Place the image into the bezel. It should fit snugly. If the image is loose, you can glue the image in place with a water-based adhesive such as "The Ultimate" glue. Use the same glue to seal the edges of the image by painting a thin layer over the image. Allow to dry thoroughly.
- Use the calibrated cups to measure the resin and hardener separately according to the manufacturer's instructions. 2 parts resin to 1 part hardener.
- Gradually combine the hardener and resin in a disposable plastic cup.

6. Mix by "folding" the resin and hardener together for two minutes: scrape the sides of the cup as you mix.

7. Let the mixed resin "rest" for five minutes.

8. Pour the resin slowly into your prepared bezel. Add resin until the bezel is full and is gently domed. Working on a small elevated work surface makes it easy to print and move the piece.

9. To aid in the dissipation of air bubbles, carefully hold a lighter flame above the surface of the resin. Bubbles will quickly rise to the surface and burn. Once the resin is clear, set the pendant aside on a level surface and cover with an inverted container to prevent dust from settling on the resin. Allow to dry for approximately eight hours at room temperature.

Check out our full Education Station online!
www.rings-things.com/resources