

Dip, Dry, Draw, & Fire: Color From White Liquid Enamel

In this 2-part introduction workshop students will experience the possibilities available with white liquid enamel to create colorful and graphic imagery for jewelry and small vessel forms. We learn how to dip, brush, pour, paint, draw with, and torch fire this versatile form of enamel on copper. We'll cover some tips, tricks, and techniques for achieving multiple colors and patterns using the torch as our "paint" brush.

Materials and Tools

Use any jewelry making tools you already have (pliers, files, saw & blades, wire cutters etc.)

- Work apron
- Some *inexpensive* assorted sized watercolor brushes, soft bristled
- Plastic watercolor tray, preferably with lid*#
- Eye dropper*
- Hand drill or Dremel tool* #see below
- Drill bits sizes #51, 55, 60* - if you want to do some pierced designs
- Roll of paper towels or a small hand towel (kitchen cloth size)
- Sharp scribe, needle, or ice pick for scratching designs
- Safety glasses
- Long needle nose pliers (the kind with teeth are okay)
- Plastic container with lid (e.g. yogurt carton or Tupperware – small size for storing enamel)
- Tweezers
- Small sharp scissors
- Dust mask (recommend 3M #8233 or similar) if desired
- Assorted wet/dry carborundum (Emery) paper (320, 400 and 600)
- **24 gauge sheet copper** 6 x 12 inches or more OR 10 – 20 pre-cut copper shapes about 2" sq. - 26 gauge sheet copper 4 X 4 inches, if you want to make a small bowl
- Diamond needle file set or diamond abrasive pads.
- Pair of sharp shears for cutting sheet metal (pruning shears work great)

Studio tools:

2 or 3" steel enameling trivets

Fire bricks for firing on.

palette knife or stainless steel teaspoon (any old tablespoon)

Steel mesh screen (for your torch)

Soldering/firing tripods (1 for ea. torch) OR additional fire bricks to prop screens on.

Torch and strikers – very important, (acetylene preferred but any will work) I prefer Smith with #2 and #3 tips. Prest-O-Lite is good too.

Enameling kiln if available (optional)

Work sink/running water

Worktables/space with adequate lighting

Firing station for the enamels (e.g. ventilated soldering area) with enough room to easily maneuver.

old toothbrush (for texturing and cleaning fingernails)

Studio Materials:

Thompson Liquid Enamel #533 (8oz will be more than enough)

Glass brush – Optional - (1 or 2)

Alundum stones (150 grit)

Diamond abrasive pads or needle files

Distilled water for mixing enamels

Small Tupperware containers, plastic yogurt containers, or other similar to mix the enamel. Two of three quart size or larger. (6 x 6 x 2 inches for example) to mix enamel in.