

Experimental Enameling – searching for expressive techniques

List of suggested materials

Enamels:

- enamels, a variety of colors including both high melting temperatures and low temperatures and both transparent and opaque colors (leaded enamels tend to have lower melting temperatures than unleaded, in this case they can be layered) from any enamel manufacturer
- counter enamel
- (soft) white enamel
- transparent colorless flux

Enameling equipment:

- enamel kiln (preferably with a pyrometer)
- kiln tools: trivets, mesh racks, point racks, press plates, etc.
- copper pieces from 1-2" - can be from scrap, made into any shape you wish to craft into a jewelry piece, but preferably rounder (and domed) shapes for stability reasons
- Pickle bath to remove fire scale from copper pieces (including copper tongs, metal cleaning cloth)
- A4 paper/magazine pages to sift on
- small sifter, mesh 80 is perfect
- several paintbrushes, fine and medium
- scratching tools such as feathers, pointed sticks, sharpened bamboo quills
- stone or metal surface to place hot pieces on to cool down
- large pair of tongs to move trivets into or out of kiln
- brass brush
- metal spoon, toothpicks
- small containers to mix enamels in (bottle caps will do), or small glass/ceramic dishes/plates are ideal
- small water glass
- towel or rag to dry/wipe
- eye dropper/ pipette
- camellia oil or lavender oil (as you would buy in a normal health store)
- tweezers
- Klyrfire, or any other holding agent such as powdered gum Arabic (which I prefer)
- abrasive stones to grind enamel
- dust mask (N95 recommended)
- latex or other tight-fitting protective gloves

Extras and add-ons for second session:

- any glass beads or small glass pieces you have/find
- if you have larger pieces, you might need a hammer and piece of soft leather to break into smaller chunks, alternatively a pestle and mortar
- small glass splinters, if you have (optional)
- binding wire that fits through your beads
- metal scissors to cut binding wire

- drill
- any clean, quartz-based sand

Brooch setting:

For the brooch setting (which will be prepared before the workshop, only how to set the enamel piece and the pin construction will be shown live, therefore you do need some metalwork experience to make a setting like this in your own time):

- Silver plate, thickness 0,5 – 0,8 mm
- saw frame and saw blades (I prefer really thin ones, 0/5 or 0/6)
- drill
- needle files
- brass brush
- steel pin, 0,8 mm in diameter
- small silver tube (length about 1,2 cm or about half an inch) with same diameter as steel pin (pin must still fit inside)
- soldering equipment (torch, flux, solder, pickle)
- pliers to bend pin finding
- sanding paper/sanding sticks to polish pin point
- blunt wooden stick or back of a pencil/paintbrush to bend prongs
- small piece of leather to protect your enamel while setting