

Pocosin Arts - Online Workshop
September 23 and 30, 2022
12:00 – 2:00 pm EST
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The Alchemy of Copper Oxides: Two Enamels, Infinite Colors **Equipment and Materials List**

Equipment

- **Enameling kiln** that can fire up to 1700 F. It will be easiest if you have an accurate pyrometer on your kiln.
 - Be sure to have appropriate ventilation for your kiln
- **Kiln furniture** (firing screen and trivets, size and shape of trivets will depend on size and shape of metal you want to enamel)
- **Firing fork**
- **Heat resistant surface** for hot trivets and enamels (tile, stone, steel)
- **Heat resistant gloves**
- **Copper tongs or large steel tweezers/tongs** for removing hot enamels from trivets and moving hot trivets
- **Cold pickle** for cleaning metal (hot pickle is more likely to damage enamel)
 - **Copper tongs** for use with pickle
 - **Container for rinse water**
- **N95 dust mask or a respirator**
- **Plastic containers with tight fitting lids** for mixing and storing liquid enamels (approximately 4" x 4" x 2" although size will vary depending on how much enamel you want to mix up), one for each color of enamel
- **Small containers for pouring enamel** (measuring cups, empty fruit cup, condiment cups etc.). One for each enamel color.
- **Large container for rinse water** – big enough to rinse both hands and your tools. This will also be used to collect excess enamel so you aren't dumping it down your drain.
- **Metal spoons**, one for each enamel color
- **Pointed tools for sgraffito** (mechanical pencil, ceramic needle tool, scribe, sharpened chop stick, bamboo skewers, etc.)
- **Kitchen sponge**
- **Hand towel or rags** for drying metal
- **Drip safe surface for applying enamel.** You may want to put down plastic on your work surface to make it easier to clean

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Materials

- **Liquid Form Enamels from Thompson Enamel.** You can buy these enamels in three sizes, 4oz., 8 oz., or 5lb. (They will come as a dry powder; we will cover how to mix them with distilled water). If you want to make panels, I suggest purchasing at least 8 ounces of each. The Thompson Enamel website can be confusing and difficult to navigate so unless you are familiar with it, I would recommend calling to place your order. Their number is (859) 291-3800.
 - **Low Fusing Clear Transparent BC-969**
 - **533 White** (this is a very opaque white)
 - **Medium Fusing White BC-1070.** (This is a less opaque white. If you are only going to buy one white, buy 533).
- **22, 20, or 18 gauge copper sheet or a selection of pre-cut copper shapes.** Size is up to you, just make sure it fits in your kiln and on your trivets. If you are working larger than 2" x 2" you will want 20 or 18 gauge rather than 22.
- **Distilled water**
- **Old magazines or scrap paper** to catch enamel when doing sgraffito
- **Sandpaper** (a range of grits is nice but if you only want to buy one, get something in the 200 grit range)

Optional

- **Fine metal sieve** to remove any lumps after mixing enamel
- **Paint brush** for applying enamel. 1 – 2" wide, flat brush
- **Fan brush** for removing loose enamel after sgraffito
- **Alundum stone or diamond sanding pads**
- **Steel press plate to flatten enamels**
- **Dark glasses** to protect eyes when looking in the kiln
- **Jeweler's saw and bench pin** for cutting sheet copper if you want to create your own shapes
- **File** for refining sawn metal shapes
- **Latex or nitrile gloves**
- **Apron**