

Charms for mixed media use - Melissa Muir

Items used:

Shaped blanks from Micro-Tools: <https://www.micro-tools.com/pages/search-results-page?q=blanks?aff=8>

Brass Hammer: <https://www.micro-tools.com/products/ham-456-20?aff=8>

Fretz Maker Hammers: <https://www.micro-tools.com/pages/search-results-page?q=fretz+maker?aff=8>

Steel Bench Block: <https://www.micro-tools.com/products/197-00?aff=8>

Design Stamps: <https://www.micro-tools.com/pages/search-results-page?q=design+stamp?aff=8>

Polish Pads: <https://www.micro-tools.com/products/pol-695-00?aff=8>

Permanent Markers

Jewelry adhesive or Epoxy

Note that blanks come in all sizes, shapes and thicknesses. The thicker the blank, the more metal there is to move. Experiment with different hammers to see the possible designs. A round hammer is going to provide a dimple effect. Hammers with cross peen, or long skinny face, will create long lines.

To give your piece a little personal touch, use a round or ball end of the hammer to texture just the edge. This will leave a hammered texture that finishes the piece nicely and gives it a more finished edge.

Use a pencil or stick to hold onto the blank when hammering to avoid hitting your fingers.

Use one strong hammer blow when using design stamps. If you use multiple blows, you may get some ghosting or double images. If multiple blows are necessary, be sure to "lock" the stamp into the previous impression before striking again.

When using design stamps, be sure to get the face of the design flat onto the blank. Stabilize with your fingers and be sure to keep your hand lower than the striking edge of the stamp.

Use a permanent marker to color into the hammer and design marks. Try using different colored markers for even more options.

For even more fun, visit the scrapbooking section of the hobby or craft store for fun crystals and other embellishments. Use a jewelry adhesive or epoxy to secure them to the blank.

Melissa Muir

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<http://melissamuir.com/blog>