



Let's learn how to make epoxy bracelets.
By Gay Isber

Gather your supplies:

- Apoxie Sculpt Part A and B – this color is bronze. This is the four pound option, which has two pounds in each of the tub, which will make many, many items. This is from Aves Studio.
- Some basic tools – an old pencil, wood craft sticks, sculpting tools and old knife – use what you have but you can't use your food utensils. Use things that you can dedicate to epoxy clay or art projects.
- Plastic bag to set your project on to dry. Don't use paper, as it could stick.
- Beads or cabochons or other things to press into the clay.
- A bracelet that you can cover. Here is am using a bracelet I bought that has a nice brass finish inside. Look through your jewelry box for old bangles to restyle. Also, Nunn Designs has great bangle blanks that I also use that are USA made and plated in gold.
- Disposable Gloves – not the kind for food prep, as they are too lose on your fingers, more a medical grade that is fits to your hands.
- Baby wipes – the alcohol in the wipes is the best cleaner. There really is no substitute. I keep a dried out wipe handy to really give it a good clean after the bracelet is totally dry.
- An old paint brush to brush off any lose gold flakes – once it is cured
- A metallic foil any color – you will need one or two sheets per bracelet
- A metallic paint pin to cover any places once finished that might need a touch up.



This is my pink and pearl cabochon box.



Take equal parts of A and B. Here is the bangle I bought with a nice brass inside and gold edge. You have to eye ball the amount of clay that it will take to cover the bracelet. If you make too much just make it into a bead with a hole in the middle or use it for another project as you will see later in the book.



Using gloves, mix VERY well the two parts together until you see no grey strikes and then mix it a little bit more to make sure it is well blended. Any surprise areas that don't get mix will cause an area that will never cure. Mix and then mix some more to really distribute the two parts.



Rub the ball into a snake. The snake should be about as long as the circumference of the bracelet.



Wrap the Apoxie Sculpt around the bracelet and start flattening it out to cover as evenly as possible. You can take your gloves off at this point. Sometimes fingers are just the perfect tool.



Smooth the clay into the shape that you like – here I have tapered the shape so it is thicker in the middle. Trim off any excess with a wood stick, an old knife or molding tools. You can work this for a while and get it really smooth but it isn't necessary because when you push the cabs into the clay it will change again. You can let it rest for a little while if the clay seems too wet. Total work time is a few hours but it will start firming up shortly.



Press in your beads, objects and or cabochons. Here I have used a random mix.



Between the yellow papers is the gold foil. Move the papers close to the project as it is whisper thin and once you pull out a sheet you will be glad it is next to the bangle.

Before you add the gold, it is best to gently wipe the bracelet and the cabochons with a baby wipe. The gold will stick to the clay so this step will help at the end and make your clean up easier. You should totally clean the edges and inside of the bracelet, too. You will clean it again once you are finished applying the gold.



Gently press the gold into the clay. It will grip it easily. Use any flakes and scraps to fill in any areas and gaps. If you press the clay the foil will split, the harder you press the bigger the cracks. So be gentle and enjoy the process. A little bit of clay showing through might add to your creation. You decide. Look over the entire bracelet for areas that need a little finessing. You might need two sheets.



Rework any areas the need to have more foil. Make sure all clay is wiped off and using a wet wipe. Clean the cabs gently to remove any gold. Very gently, burnish the gold with light finger tips. You do not need to work this over but once and then let it cure.

Go wash your hands with soap and water. Clean up your tools and area with wet wipes before they dry.

HINTS:

- I often embed my metal name tags into to the clay.
- After it is totally cured, at least 24 hours, use a dried out wet wipe or old paint brush to give the piece a good buffing.
- If there are areas that you would like to touch up after it is dry, just use a metallic paint marker that matches the foil.
- I sometimes seal the gold foil with clear resin to ensure longevity – see the Resin chapter. Make sure all of the flakes have been removed first to make sure it is super smooth.
- You can embed anything so have fun!



Sometimes the cracks in the gold make the design. This could be even more stunning with colored clay underneath. This is black Apoxie Sculpt and a Nunn Design bangle. I also have added a layer of resin to protect it forever and make it super smooth.



These are the Nunn Design bangles in their three sizes plus a cuff, where I added labradorite beads. Experiment and play. You will quickly see how to control the cracks and be able to make your designs unique to you.

Here is a photo from Candice Ghai with one of my bangles in it. So rich with the emerald and gold.

