

1404-3

Mark Nelson demonstrates how to use old components to create new jewelry designs using a soldering technique.

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Guest:



Mark Nelson

Make a Ring Using Recycled Components - Part One

Recycling old necklace links and other jewelry components is a great way to save precious metal in your shop while creating a brand new design. Use basic soldering skills in this project to re-invent your jewelry again and again!



steps:

1. To create a strong solder joint on the round components, first file the area of the joints flat with a half-round #3 file. Be sure to file on both sides of the components directly opposite one another, so each piece will line up straight when soldered. Five components 12mm in outside diameter will make about a size 6 ring.
2. Clamp the component in the Third Hand tweezer and brush on some flux to prevent firescale. Place a dab of Handy® flux on the flat area to help the solder flow.
3. Wearing your safety glasses, ignite the torch and adjust it to a low, blue flame. "Sweat solder" the component by heating a piece of easy solder on the soldering pick, then heating the component and applying the solder, heating it until the solder flows.
4. Once each component has solder on it, lay them out flat on a soldering board so that the solder joints touch each other. Make sure each piece is coated in flux, then heat them with the torch until the solder flows at each joint.
5. Use the tongs to quench the piece in water, then pickle it in the pickle pot for about a minute. Remove and rinse in water.
6. Tighten the ring mandrel in the vertical vise and begin forming the piece against it by hand. Go slowly and carefully, taking care not to put too much pressure on the solder joints.
7. Once the forming is started, use the deadblow mallet to continue forming a curve in the piece. Start at a wider radius on the ring mandrel and then slowly bring it down to the ring size you desire.

⚠ CAUTION! Always wear eye protection when performing these processes.



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supplies:

Order #	Description
696-034	Sterling silver round beaded component
114-765	Friedrich Dick needle file set
502-066	Third Hand base with tweezer
704-096	Boric acid (flux)
504-025	Flux dispenser with pump
115-146	Natural brush sticks
504-006	Handy® flux
201-054	Safety glasses
500-090	Little Torch™ propane and oxygen set
500-091/2	Disposable propane tank
500-092/2	Disposable oxygen tank
500-018	Little Torch™ torch holder
502-004	Silquar™ high-heat block
503-048	Automatic torch igniter
101-200	Silver sheet solder, easy
503-019	Titanium soldering picks
501-017	Copper tongs
501-023/3	Rio Pickle™; 3 lbs.
501-012	Little Dipper™ pickle pot
115-401	Bonny Doon vertical vise
112-369	Ring mandrel
112-242	European deadblow mallet
—	Pyrex® dish of water