

1306-4

Mark Nelson demonstrates pen plating using products from Rio Grande – a play on our literature theme.

[Click here to watch the video for this project.](#)

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Please continue to page 2 for project instructions.

Guest:



Mark Nelson

Pen Plating onto Silver

Use pen plating to add a hint of 24K yellow gold to your jewelry designs! For more information and pen-plating tips, refer to the *MIDAS® Plating Guide* (see list below). **NOTE:** Always wear safety gloves and glasses while pen-plating and work in a well-ventilated area.

steps:

1. Machine Set-Up

Plug the power cord into the back of the rectifier; the red light on top of the rectifier indicates the rectifier is receiving power. Push a new felt tip into the plating pen.

Tip: The felt tips can be trimmed and shaped to reach detailed or recessed areas of the piece. **Please Note:** Make sure to replace the felt tips between uses to avoid corroding your plating solutions. Plug both pens (red and blue) into the two ports on the back of the rectifier. Both pens are positive leads, so there is no danger of causing electrical shock. The negative lead (black) is attached to the back of the rectifier; this lead has an alligator clip on the end for holding your jewelry piece.

2. Pen Plating Process

Pour a small amount of nickel pre-plating solution into one Pyrex® beaker; pour a small amount of the 24K yellow gold plating solution into another beaker. **Please Note:** Do not replace unused solution in its original jar; this will cause contamination. Clamp the alligator clip of the negative (-) lead (black) onto a cleaned sterling piece. When plating gold onto sterling, you must first apply a nickel pre-plate barrier to keep the gold from migrating. Soak the felt tip of one of the pens in the nickel solution for 1 to 2 minutes. Turn on the rectifier and operate it at 1 to 4 volts for nickel and 6 to 8 volts for gold. You can experiment with the voltage depending on the size of the piece you are plating. Brush the nickel pre-plating onto any areas you will later plate with gold. The piece will begin to darken as the nickel barrier bonds to the sterling. Using tweezers, dip the piece in a cup of distilled water to rinse. Dry with a cloth or paper towel once you are completely done plating. **Note:** Do not allow the piece to air-dry, as this may cause spotting or streaking. Clamp the negative (-) lead (black) back onto the piece. Soak the other pen tip in the gold plating solution for 1 to 2 minutes. Brush the gold plating onto the piece. Dip the felt tip in the solution as often as needed, just don't allow it to drip. Rinse the piece in distilled water, then dry with a cloth or paper towel.



supplies:

Order #	Description
335-136	MIDAS® pen-plating system
335-320	MIDAS® pen 24KY gold plating solution
335-169	MIDAS® nickel pre-plating solution
335-139	Extra plating pen & lead (for nickel pre-plating solution)
335-064	Extra Pyrex® beaker (for nickel pre-plating solution)
201-054	Citation safety glasses
550-289	<i>MIDAS® Plating Guide</i> book
—	Tweezers
—	Gloves
—	Soft cloth or paper towels
—	Cup of distilled water



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