

1308-3

Mark Nelson demonstrates cold connection tabs with products from Rio Grande.

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Guest:



Mark Nelson

Cold Connections

This is a layering technique you can use to add any kind of texture to a piece using tabs and set a stone at the same time without having to use solder.

steps:

1. Prepare your stock

You can use any kind of sheet for this project: brass, copper, silver—even gold. It can be anywhere from 18- to 24-gauge. Texture it with a texturing hammer, roller-print it, or apply a patina. Use your imagination!

2. Make a backing plate

Using the disc cutter, cut a 3/4" backing plate out of 24-gauge material. File or sand away any burrs.

3. Create a washer

Using your disc cutter and centering dies, cut the center hole of your washer first from your textured stock. For our 10mm stone, 3/8" works great. Next use the 5/8" centering die and center the hole in a 5/8" disc. Cut a seat on the back side of the washer for your stone using a round ball bur and your flex shaft. Be careful not to make the hole too big or your stone will slip through.

4. Create your tabs on the backing plate

Plan out your tabs. Make them the same width as the file you will use to cut your slits. Putting them on the backing plate means fewer edges on the bottom and makes wearing the piece more comfortable. Mark your tabs on both the backing plate and the washer. Be creative! Cut slits in your washer with a needle file to accept the tabs. Cut the tabs themselves with a fine blade in a jeweler's hand saw.

5. Assemble your pieces

Place your stone on the backing plate and slip the washer over it. Bend your tabs up with your needle pliers to secure the piece. Voilà! Link several of similar or different pieces to create a fabulous bracelet or other type of jewelry.



supplies:

Order #	Description
100-124	Sterling sheet, 24-gauge
100-122	Sterling sheet, 22-gauge
112-509	Swanstrom disc-cutter
112-524	Swanstrom centering die set
112-330	Brass-head mallet
113-208	Optivisor™ with #5 lens
112-225	Chasing hammer, 3 oz.
115-315	Steel bench block
085-023	Carnelian cabochon, 10mm
696-531	Sterling oval jump rings, 18-ga
690-615	Sterling oval twist jump rings, 16-ga
117-003	Bur-Life™ stick
117-534	Foredom® SR30 flex shaft
114-765	Needle file set, #3
110-054	Adjustable blade saw frame, 75mm
110-304	Laser Gold™ saw blades, #4/0
111-026	Swanstrom pliers and cutter set
345-533	High-speed round ball bur, 10.4mm
116-171	Starrett deluxe divider
118-455	Double-ended etching scribe
113-030	Bezel roller and prong pusher set
116-075	Sliding brass gauge
112-246	Deadblow mallet, 30mm
349-411	High-speed twist drill, 1.6mm
117-291	Swing Away™ arm
332-790	AdvantEdge™ Plus Kit
333-105	Mandrel



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