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The ancient Korean technique of keum boo using products from Rio Grande with Mark Nelson.

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

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Guest:



Mark Nelson

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Keum-Boo

Keum-Boo is a traditional Korean jewelry-making technique that is widely used in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean Art. Keum-Boo means "attached gold." Keum-Boo works great on fine silver, fired PMC®, Argentium® Silver and sterling silver. **Note:** Sterling silver needs to be depletion-gilded.

Designs shown are by Christine Dhein (www.christinedhein.com).



steps:

1. Plan your design

Use a tracing paper envelope to handle your gold foil to avoid touching it with your fingers. Oil can inhibit the ability of the foil to bond with your metal. Carefully cut out your foil and set it aside. **Note:** The foil is extremely light and is easily affected by drafts; always work in a draft-free space.

2. Heat the workpiece

Pre-heat your hotplate. The diffusion bonding process (heat and pressure cause atoms to be exchanged between materials) takes place between 500°F and 700°F. The plate is hot enough when a wooden toothpick, touched lightly to the surface, smokes slightly. Heat the workpiece on the hotplate.

3. Apply your design

Use a burnisher to gently tack your gold foil in place on the heated workpiece. Continue to apply pressure, starting in the center, holding your piece steady with a second burnisher or a leather glove. When finished, allow the piece to cool naturally (don't quench in water!).

Clean it lightly with a wire brush to remove oxidation, then finish by polishing or oxidizing the silver for a higher-contrast look.

supplies:

Order #	Description
335-006	Single-burner hotplate
560-235	Keum-Boo Basics DVD
560-236	Keum-Boo: Beyond the Basics DVD
623-013	23.5K yellow gold foil for Keum-Boo
116-474	Boro burnishers
111-363	Sword-tip agate burnisher
111-361	Ball-tip agate burnisher
111-362	Knife-tip agate burnisher
—	Tweezers
—	Scissors
—	Toothpicks



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