

1406-1

Mark Nelson shows how to make handmade bezels with odd shaped stones.

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Guest:



Mark Nelson

Creating a Bezel for Free-Form Stones

Custom-fitted bezels give you the freedom to set nearly any shape stone or component!

steps:

1. Pick your stone first so you can select the correct size width, height and thickness of fine silver bezel wire. Measure the circumference of the stone to find the length of bezel wire needed.
2. Lay the stone flat on your work surface and form the bezel wire around the stone with your fingers. Decide where your seam will be, choosing a spot on a long side of your stone. Cut one end of the bezel wire at the seam with flush cutters.
3. Wrap the wire back around the stone and overlap the excess wire over where you cut the seam. Mark the seam on the overlap with a scribe and cut this mark with the cutters. File the cut edges of the bezel wire down square.
4. Line up the bezel edges and ensure they are flush. It helps to work-harden the silver by bending the edges past each other a few times. This will create a tension that will hold the seam flush together.
5. Place a small square of hard solder on a charcoal block sitting on a Silquar™ block. Apply a small amount of My-T-Flux™ to the bezel seam with a brush and set the seam directly on top of the solder chip.
6. Wearing your safety glasses, ignite the torch and adjust it to a medium blue flame and heat both sides of the seam until the solder flows. Use the tweezers to quench the bezel in water, then pickle it.
7. Pass the stone through the bezel several times to level the sides, then even off the bottom by rubbing it on sandpaper in a figure eight pattern several times.
8. Place the bezel on whatever flat sheet of metal you wish to use for your backing. Use the scribe to trace an outline on the sheet, and then cut out the backing. Lightly coat the backing and bezel with flux, then solder the bezel to the backing by evenly spacing out chips of hard solder on the backing and placing the bezel on top. Use your torch to heat both sides of the bezel all the way around until the solder flows. Then quench the setting in water, pickle it and finish it to nearly a polishing stage.
9. Place the stone into the setting, making sure to level it with cob meal if needed. Set the stone by pressing in the sides of the bezel with a burnisher.



supplies:

Order #	Description
101-001	.999 fine silver plain strip, 28 ga., dead soft
101-918	.999 fine silver sheet, 28 ga., dead soft
101-704	Hard solder wire
111-305	Flush cutters
118-455	Scribe
114-794	File set
113-017	Burnisher
502-004	Silquar™ high heat block
502-025	Charcoal block
504-025	Flux pump dispenser
504-006	My-T-Flux™
115-146	Natural brush sticks
201-054	Safety glasses
503-048	Torch ignitor
500-090	Little Torch™ set
500-091/2	Disposable propane tank
500-092/2	Disposable oxygen tank
500-018	Little Torch™ holder
115-051	Cross lock tweezers
501-012	Little Dipper™ pickle pot
501-023/3	Rio Pickle; 3 lbs
113-079	Brass bezel roller
336-036	Cob meal
337-342	Sandpaper
—	Stone
—	Pyrex® dish of water

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



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