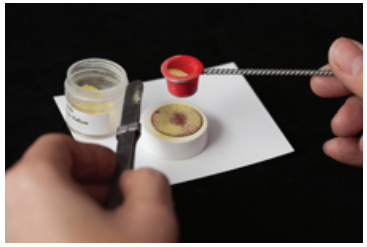
1. Additionally, you should use separate papers for every color of enamel to eliminate cross contamination.

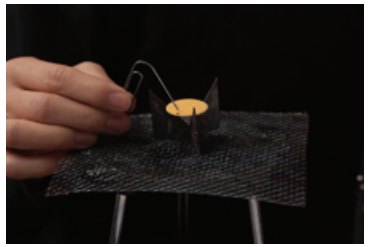
2. Allow enamel to thoroughly dry before using. A hot plate may be used to hasten the process.

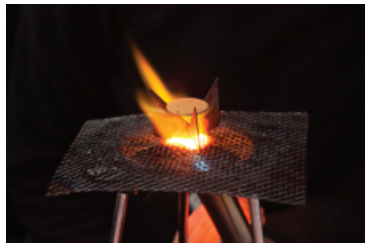
Enameling

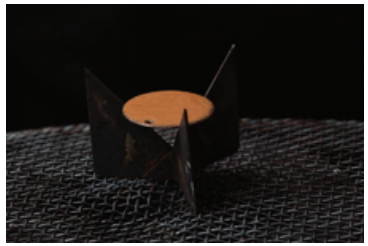
Counter enamel

Counter enamel is the process of firing enamel on the back side of the working surface. This is done to reduce the stress on your enamel caused by the cooling of your metal. Coating both sides of you metal distributes the stress equally to both sides of the metal, reducing warp-age and prevents the enamel from popping off. It is advised to fire your counter enamel first as to reduce the risk of ruining your finished design.









1. Create counter enamel by brushing on holding agent, sifting an even layer of enamel and firing.

2. Using a paint brush, wet the tip with Enamel Holding Agent (holding agent should be diluted with water 50/50) and brush the surface of the metal. This will help the enamel stay in place during transfer to the trivet. Allow holding agent to dry thoroughly before firing. If holding agent is spreading too heavily, you may dilute with more water to thin out the solution. This will help it dry faster. Thick holding agent will cause the enamel to have bubbles. Place enamel into sifter and sift evenly over metal surface until the entire surface is covered and you cannot see the metal through the enamel. Sift in a circular pattern starting from the outside edge and working your way to the middle. (Due to expansion of enamel this pattern will help coverage to the edge of your metal piece.) Tapping the handle of the sifter with your tweezers will help distribute the enamel.

3. Using a metal spatula, carefully transfer the metal piece to the trivet for firing. If there is a hole in your enameling surface, make sure you clean it out before firing. If you do not do this, the hole will solidify with enamel during the firing.

4. Begin firing enameling by torching from underneath the metal. If you fire from above you will risk blowing the enamel off the surface and overheating the enamel.

5. Move the flame around the trivet so that the enamel will fire evenly.

6. If you are creating multiple layers, heat until the enamel looks like the surface of orange peel.

7. Use spatula and/or tweezers to remove enameled piece from the trivet and place on a cooling block (fire brick). If using tweezers, only hold the metal on the sides or the enamel may be marred.

8. If you are creating one layer of enamel, heat until the enamel is smooth and glossy looking.

9. When the enameled piece is cooled, clean the back side with sand paper or pickle (Sparex) to remove firescale. By removing the firescale you will prevent the enamel from being contaminated in subsequent firings.

10. Sift additional layers of enamel to create a thicker layer of enamel. If you would like to create different color effects, use a different color.

the urban beader®