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Getting Started Making Metal Jewelry

Mark Lareau

Loveland, Colo.: Master teacher and jewelry designer Mark Lareau would like to know, “Are you ready to stamp, cut, drill, and solder to create the most stunning, one-of-a-kind jewelry?” Join the metal heads, the growing number of jewelry-making enthusiasts who are deciding to go beyond simple stringing and bead crafting into the realm of more sophisticated metal jewelry. Lareau’s new book, **GETTING STARTED MAKING METAL JEWELRY** (Interweave Press, January 2007, \$19.95), teaches beginners everything they need to know to get professional-looking results and make metal necklaces, pendants, rings, bracelets, earrings, and more in styles from contemporary and funky to classic and elegant.

“Some people find the idea of metalsmithing a little intimidating,” says Lareau. “Cutting and drilling require sharp tools, even power tools; soldering requires high heat. But the basic skills of metalsmithing are really no more challenging than any number of household chores, and you’ll open the door to a whole world of creative jewelry making.”

Lareau demystifies the techniques, the jargon, and the processes, and gives newcomers the confidence to get started creating original designs with ease. Readers begin with an introduction to the tools and materials needed to set up a basic studio, with most tools readily available at the local hardware store. Lareau explains how each tool works, starting with the most essential bench pin, and works his way through saws, hammers, files, polishing papers, mandrels, and more. Helpful sidebars offer extra tips and tricks.

Then Lareau walks newcomers step by step through every stage of the metal jewelry art—from practicing proper safety to learning the basic fundamentals of working with a variety of metals in tubes, sheets, wires, and molten form. Basic techniques covered include fabrication, casting, and metal texturing and finishing techniques such as stamping, etching, and design transfers. One

chapter is devoted to the science of soldering and fusing, to help broaden the new student's understanding of the metalsmithing process. And for newcomers apprehensive about working with high heat, another chapter is dedicated to the process of cold connections, crafted without soldering using such techniques as piercing, sawing, joining, and riveting.

Lareau's philosophy is "learning by doing," so readers build their skills as they progress through chapters of the book. Each project begins with a tools and materials list, followed by clear instructions and step-by-step photographs. Projects include:

- **Simple Fused Pendant:** A pendant using scrap pieces of silver left over from other projects
- **Bracelet with Letter Punch Design:** A project using simple letter or design punches found at jeweler supply companies
- **Decorative Bead Caps:** An interesting way to disguise beads with large poorly formed holes
- **Soldering Stone Settings to Your Pieces:** Add a sense of style and glamour to your pieces with faceted stones and cabochons
- And much more!

With the skills achieved in **GETTING STARTED MAKING METAL JEWELRY**, if you imagine it, you can make it!

GETTING STARTED MAKING METAL JEWELRY

Mark Lareau

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About the author: **Mark Lareau** started his wireworking and metalsmithing odyssey in 1998 when he began making simple wire jewelry and basic mobiles. In 1992, Mark and his wife, Viki, opened The Bead Factory, a full-service retail bead store in Tacoma, Washington, and he has been teaching classes there since. Viki and Mark are also the founders of the Puget Sound Bead Festival, the most successful consumer bead event on the West Coast. Mark is the author of *All Wired Up* (Interweave Press, 2000), with 75,000 copies sold.

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