

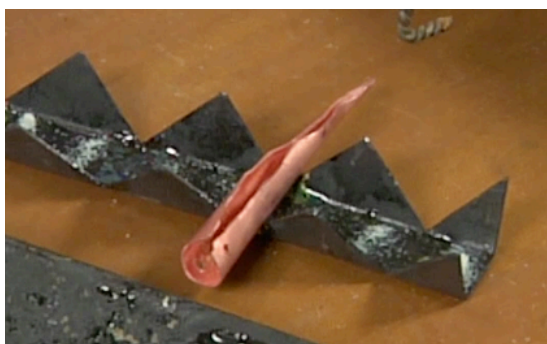


Explorations in Jewelry Enameling

Torch and Kiln Techniques

with Susan Lenart Kazmer

FIRING SCHEDULE



Tips for Kiln Firing:

- Kiln firing works well when firing multiple layers of enamels. The kiln excels at providing steady, even heat.
- Insert your pieces into the kiln on a trivet.
- For medium enamels, wait for the temperature to climb to 1475 degrees F. before removing immediately.
- Let your piece cool gradually in the air. Don't surprise your piece with quick temperature variations.

Tips for Torch Firing:

Graphite pencil

- First, create a matte surface with Etchall Etching Creme. Wipe it off after 10 minutes. Use different pressures to write with graphite for lighter or darker looks.
- Set your piece on steel wires. Fire with a propane torch, coming from beneath. Start from far away and gradually come closer.
- Melt the enamel enough so that it will absorb the graphite, at a temperature of 1325 degrees F.



Enamel crayons

- Enamel crayons need to be fired slightly longer than graphite pencil, at no more than 1325 degrees F.
- Don't worry if your piece blackens during firing; the black will disappear as it cools.

Sgraffito

- Fire gradually, approaching slowly, and go beyond the stage that looks like clay.
- Bring the piece to a nice glow to hit 1325 degrees F. Your piece will darken as it heats, but the color will revert once it cools.

Crackle

- The crackle technique results from using two enamels that are incompatible with each other.
- Apply a crackle base coat first. Once dry, apply the liquid enamel over the entire piece.
- As with other techniques you've learned so far, fire gradually from far to near to produce the best crackle effects.