



Explorations in Jewelry Enameling Torch and Kiln Techniques with Susan Lenart Kazmer

SUSAN'S TOP 5 TIPS

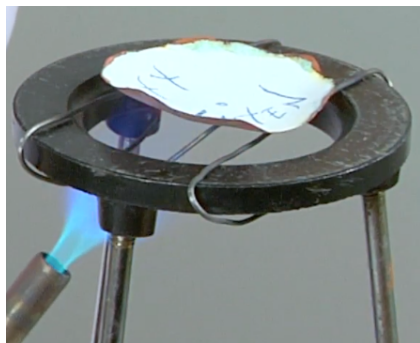
1 Secret Ingredient

Klyr Fire serves a dual purpose: to help the enamels better adhere to your surfaces and to protect the metal from fire scale. Cover any exposed, non-enamelled metal with Klyr Fire before subjecting it to kiln or torch.



2 Front & Back

Counter-enameling – that is, the process of applying enamels to the back as well as the front of your piece – ensures that both surfaces heat evenly. This prevents the enamels from popping off later. Flatter pieces are good candidates for counter-enamel, whereas deeply curved pieces rarely need it.



3 High & Dry

Always make sure your pieces are thoroughly dry before firing them; otherwise, your enamels may not adhere fully. The top of your warm kiln is a good spot to place pieces if you want them to dry quickly.

4 Slow & Steady

When using the propane torch, heat your piece from below at a distance, and then move slowly up to the piece. Avoid drastic temperature changes that might cause your enamel to pop off.



5 Experiment!

After firing, if you don't like the look, you can continue to add enamels until you're happy with the result. Multiple thin layers of enamel will create a wonderful, rich look.