

# keum boo TECHNIQUES

## *add* Gold Foil *to* Silver Jewelry

*with* JOE KORTH

### MATERIALS

- Silver sheet, 22- or 24-gauge for earrings; some options:
  - Note: if you elect to use different kinds of silver, mark them so that you can tell them apart
  - Fine silver (the easiest silver to use for keum boo)
  - Traditional sterling silver (requires depletion gilding [heating and pickling] in order to be able to use for keum boo)
  - Argentium silver
- Gold foil; some options:
  - Roll your own (see additional information below\*)
  - Use commercially available foil (resources: Allcraft USA or Rio Grande)
    - Very thin foil is available commercially and is ideal for layering, but should only be used for layering
  - If you purchase your foil, make certain it has been manufactured specifically for keum boo; enameling foil is not a suitable choice for the keum boo process, nor is gold leaf
- 18-, 20- or 22-gauge brass sheet; for making templates
- Pickling compound
- Isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol
- Dish soap
- Liver of sulfur (optional)
- Cardstock and glue stick; for practicing designs
- Tracing paper; vellum is ideal

### TOOLS

- Burnisher; some options:
  - Agate burnisher
  - Traditional metal jewelry burnisher with a high-polished tip
  - Long, wider, rod-shaped metal burnisher
  - Long, narrower, rod-shaped metal burnisher
- Heat source; some options:
  - Flat-top 800-watt-minimum hot plate that reaches at least 700°; Joe uses a Waring hot plate
  - Standard air acetylene jeweler's torch
  - Handheld butane torch
- Method for cutting foil; some options:
  - Quality scissors; not metal shears, but rather, paper-cutting scissors
  - X-Acto knife or scalpel; gives complete control but requires more practice; you'll also need a craft mat or other similar surface to cut atop
  - Paper punches; the kind traditionally used for scrapbooking
- Method for adding texture; some options:
  - Roll mill with texture plates
  - Hammer: standard or textured
- Method for matte finishing; some options:
  - Brass brush
  - Steel wool
  - Blue 3M radial bristle discs
- Method for protecting the surface and making it as permanent as possible; some options:
  - Powder coating dusted on with an applicator gun and fired in an oven
  - Renaissance Wax polish
  - Spray varnish or lacquer, in a glossy or matte finish
- Bench pin
- Steel bench block
- Flex shaft with drill bits
- Jeweler's saw and blades
- Metal file
- Fine-grit sandpaper; Joe uses 1500-grit sandpaper
- Copper tweezers
- Long-handled tweezers
- Sharp, pointed tweezers
- Brass brush
- Infrared thermometer (optional)
- Fine-tip Sharpie marker
- Pickle pot
- Quench bowl
- Safety glasses
- Leather welding gloves

### \*MATERIALS AND TOOLS TO ROLL YOUR OWN GOLD FOIL

- Small, 24K gold ingot (resource: NTR Metals)
- Luxi-Flux (a blue, alcohol-based flux)
- High-quality roll mill
- Torch and firing brick for annealing
- Digital caliper

### BOOKS FOR DESIGN INSPIRATION

- *Katagami Style* by Yoshiko Et Al Asami
- *Art Forms From the Ocean* by Ernst Haeckel