

# STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

# **Pewter Decorated Mannequin Torso**

by Mary Ann Lingenfelder Mimmic Gallery & Studio

# Requirements

- Lead Free Pewter sheet.
- Mannequin torso made from any firm substance e.g. paper mache, wood, ceramic, metal.
- Pewter tools, felt, scissors.
- Pattern.
- Pewter consumables: lubricator, patina, cleaner, polish, fiber or cotton wool, kitchen paper towel, latex gloves & soft cloth for polishing.
- Spray varnish.
- Contact adhesive.

## **Instructions**

## Step1

Find or purchase a mannequin to cover in pewter, estimate the quantity of pewter you will need to cover the mannequin (always over estimate, rather have too much pewter than to run short)

## Step2

Photocopy the attached design as many times as needed to trace onto the pewter sheets.

#### Step3

Cut the pewter sheet into manageable portions – we've worked on A4 sheets.

#### Step4

Place paper designs on pewter sheets and secure with masking tape.

## Step5

Trace designs with a tracing tool or ballpoint pen onto the pewter.

#### Step6

Remove tracing paper and lubricate pewter on both sides.

#### Step7

Work your design either in low relief, high relief or a combination of both, working the design from the back on your soft surface to give depth and from the front on a hard surface to give detail and to neaten the edges and background.

## Step8

Make use of different types of tool tips to create a variety of line thicknesses.

#### Step9

Every stretch of the pewter or line marking from the back must be counteracted with a neatening line from the front.

# Step10

The designs should only be slightly raised as they need to be manipulated and worked around concave and convex forms, if they are pushed out too much, then a large quantity of wax or filler will be placed in the back of the pewter designs and this will make them too rigid to shape around the forms.



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# Continued...

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# Step12

If the designs have been worked in high relief melt wax and fill the concave areas at the back.

## Step13

Clean the pewter with the cleaner to remove any remnants of your lubricator and finger marks.

#### Step 14

Apply patina quickly and firmly with fiber over the entire piece of pewter, (use gloves to protect your hands.) Patina is a corrosive chemical, keep out of reach of children.

## Step15

The pewter turns black when it comes into contact with the patina.

## Step16

Kitchen paper towel can be used to blot up excess patina.

## Step17

Allow the pewter enough time to turn black, a few minutes is normally ample time.

## Step18

Start polishing focal points and raised areas that you wish to be shiny and allow backgrounds and indented areas to remain black, this creates a lovely contrast.

#### Step19

When the desired finish and contrast between light and dark areas has been obtained, buff the pewter with cotton wool or a soft clean polishing cloth to a beautiful shine.

#### Step20

Spray pewter with clear varnish and leave to dry.

#### Step21

Cut the various groups of flowers out following the shapes. Leave broad pewter backgrounds on some cutout groups and other flowers cut along the original traced line.

#### Step22

Start placing the pewter cutouts in position with prestik. This allows you to be able to shuffle pieces around until a desirable position has been found.

#### Step23

Overlap cut out flowers onto the background of the neighboring pewter pieces, this allows for continuation of pattern and makes the joins less obvious and neater.

#### Step24

Glue pewter pieces in place with contact adhesive. Use a paper stub to rub very firmly over edges to achieve a very well stuck down neat edge.

#### Step25

Attach any braiding, lace or embellishments.

#### Step26

The same concept can be applied to a mannequin or other form by making use of all pewter offcuts collected over a period of time and the use of stencils and embossing plates in place of traditionally worked designs is also a quick and effective method.



