

Oxidising Silver

Oxidised or blackened silver is when a chemical has been added to the outer layer of silver to darken it giving an antique look as well helping to show up details in the work.

This chemical patina is essentially speeding up the natural tarnishing process.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Liver of sulphur solution or gel
- A glass container, (just large enough to fit your object) filled with enough hot water to cover your work
- A small glass/plastic container of cold water (again to fit the object you are working on)
- (optional) Baking soda/bicarbonate of soda
- Plastic tweezers, kitchen roll

There are several ways to blacken work. This is my preferred method.



This is truly stinky so make sure you are in a well ventilated area and protect your clothes!

HOW TO OXIDISE SILVER

1. Thoroughly clean your object removing all grease and dirt. This can be done in the pickle pot, ultrasonic cleaner, with pumice &/or warm soapy water and a toothbrush. Rinse thoroughly and handle with tweezers.
2. Boil the kettle and pour enough water into the glass or ceramic container to cover your object. Submerge your piece in the hot water to heat through, just a minute or two.
3. Take your item out and place on clean kitchen towel (step 4 should take less than 30 seconds)
4. Add a drop or two (experiment as it depends on your desired depth of blackening) into the hot water and mix with the tweezers.
5. Pop the item back in the solution and wait until the desired colour before removing to rinse
6. You can choose between neutralising the solution in water mixed with bicarbonate of soda or plain cold water. There is a slight colour difference but experiment and decide which you prefer.
7. Rinse thoroughly and repeat for darker colour.
8. Depending on your design you may wish to reveal some of the original metal, I like to do this with pumice and my finger tip as a brush will get into the marks I want to remain black and remove them too!

Be careful putting oxidised work in your tumbler to polish as subsequent use might blacken other work.



Dea + me



EKT Jewellery



FURTHER INFORMATION:
www.creativetherapy.space/resources

What is Oxidised Silver by John Atencio

How to by Kernocraft "two ways to blacken silver"



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