

More from Mixed-Media Metalsmith by Jen Cushman



In the July/August Mixed-Media Metalsmith column, Jen Cushman shows readers how to create a wire-wrapped shell for a great summer necklace. Here she offers another option for more summer wear with her faux beach glass technique.

materials —

ICE Resin® Ranger 2-part Molding Putty

Beach glass, a shard

ICE Resin

ICE Resin Tint (I used Hacienda.)

Rotary drill with a $\frac{1}{16}$ drill bit

(I used a Dremel® tool.)

Craft wire, 20-gauge (I used silver wire.)

Wire snips

Jewley pliers, round-nose

Leather cord or chain

optional

Sharpie® marker

Sari ribbon

Drilling real beach glass can be a little tricky, but thanks to molding putty and resin, you can create lovely shards of beach glass again and again right in your own studio.

Faux Beach Glass

1 Take equal pieces of molding putty from the containers. Roll each piece into a ball to help you better eyeball the size. The putty does not have to be mixed in exactly equal parts, but they should be close. (**FIGURE 1**)

2 Use the tips of your fingers to mix the 2 parts together. Continue mixing for a couple of minutes until all striations are gone and it is one light-grey color.

3 Press the beach glass shard firmly into the molding putty and bring the putty up and around the glass to create a mold with walled edges. (**FIGURE 2**) Let the putty cure for about 20 minutes, and then pull the glass from the mold.



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4 Mix equal parts of Part A resin with Part B hardener in the calibrated mixing cup for 2 full minutes. Mix gently but thoroughly, scraping down the sides of the cup as you mix to ensure both parts are mixed together well.

5 Pour 1–3 drops of tint into the mixed resin; the exact amount depends on how much color you want the faux beach glass to have. Gently stir the tint into the resin for about 10 seconds to fully incorporate the color. (**FIGURE 3**)

6 Pour the tinted resin into the mold and let dry for 6–8 hours. ICE Resin will air cure, and all of the bubbles will release as it cures.

7 When the resin is dry to the touch and feels like glass, pop the piece from the mold. The resin will have a light matte texture from the mold.

8 To give the glass a little more definition and make it appear more realistic, paint a small amount of brown Archival Ink on the edges. (**FIGURE 4**)



9 **Optional:** Write a word on the resin with a fine-point permanent marker to create a talisman or power word. Leave the surface as is (matte), or mix up more resin and use a disposable paintbrush to add a thin sealer layer for a shiny finish. If you add another layer of resin, let it cure an additional 6–8 hours.

10 Use a rotary tool and a $\frac{1}{16}$ drill bit to drill a hole in the beach glass. The resin is soft and drills like butter. Another option is to glue on a premade jewelry finding bail for attachment.

11 Cut a 7" piece of wire and thread it through the hole. Make a wrapped loop at the top of the beach glass with the round-nose pliers. (**FIGURE 5**) Finish the wrapped loop by winding the larger end over the smaller end until the wire runs out or, if you prefer a cleaner loop, wrap the short end of the wire around the long end 3 times, and then cut the excess wire with the wire snips.

12 Thread the finished pendant onto a premade leather cord or chain. For an additional pop of color, tie a piece of silk sari ribbon in the center where the pendant hangs.



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