

Hello Everyone

We have really had a busy week here in the studio. We have been kicking around the idea of do some book signing tours. We really want to get out and meet some artists and really connect with people. At each book signing event we plan to hold a 3 ½ hour basic wire wrapping class that will be limited to 15 people...that should be a lot of fun.

The plans for our first trip will be to Florida in early April 2008. So if you live in Florida or are planning to be in Florida the first two weeks of April let us know and we'll inform you of where we'll be. We are also looking for suggestions as to where to have a book signing/basic class other than Florida. So, if you have any suggestions, please let us know by email us at jim.mcintosh@macjewels.com.

One last thing. I have had a couple of members say that the newsletter looks a little strange when they receive it. Please let me know if there have been any problems with the way the newsletter looks. If you experience odd characters like dashes in the wrong place or if the newsletter seems difficult to read, please let me know. You can reach me at jim.mcintosh@macjewels.com.

Now...On to the Newsletter

Writing Tutorials – Part 1

I have had several people ask me how I write my tutorials and books. So I thought that it would be a nice idea to write a few articles outlining my method. Remember, this is how I do it. You may find that other do it very differently.

This week, let's start with the basic idea.

It all starts with an idea. I spend a lot of time doodling and sketching shapes and ideas. I have several sketch books that I leave lying around so when an idea hits me I'm ready. Once I sketch down the idea I spend a lot more time figuring out how to make it. I will redraw it a few times, change certain aspects of the piece, figure out where the weak points are and change them. It really is a "mad scientist" process.

Now comes the fun part. Once I feel that the idea is worth telling the world, I try to transform the sketch into a real piece of jewelry. This takes some time. Several of my sketches took 5 or more attempts until they became jewelry. With each attempt came a lot of crying and pouting and throwing of tools. But eventually I come up with a really interesting project.

Next comes the outline. After a piece is successfully produced I outline all of the steps needed to complete the piece. I usually do this on my word processor on my computer. I use Microsoft Word – it came with the computer. I'll number each step and write a title for it.

Example

1. Measure and Cut the Wire

This method really helps get everything in the proper order. As you write the outline for the tutorial you may notice that a step was skipped or something needs to be added to clarify the process. You don't want to write an entire tutorial, send it out to people and then realize that a vital step was missing.

In the next article in this series we'll add the meat to our outline.

Until next week....Remember - Practice, Practice, Practice!

Jim McIntosh

Mackintosh Jewelry Studios

<http://www.macjewels.com>

email: jim.mcintosh@macjewels.com