

Mackintosh Jewelry Studios News

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RIP Old Computer...

I Owe All of You Another Apology

Jim McIntosh
MJS News, Editor

It was a sad day. I woke up that morning with every intention of using our beloved friend...the computer. However, old age and obsolete hardware had taken their toll. I tried to revive my old and trusted friend, but it just wasn't going to happen. We lost our beloved companion that day, he will be missed.

Since my computer headed off to the happy hunting grounds along with all of my other 'old' electronics (my 8-track tape player, my record player, and my bag cell phone) we are happy to announce that we have a new member to the MJS family...our NEW Computer. We hope that this new addition will bring us many years of faithful service.

To those of you who were a little upset that there was no newsletter last week, I apologize. I hope that you can understand why we weren't able to publish our weekly newsletter. It has taken me over a week to get everything back in order and transferred to my new computer. I hope that this will be the last time, for a long while, that I will miss publishing. Please accept my sincere apology.

Writing Tutorials – Part 3

Jim McIntosh
MJS News, Editor

Now that we have the writing out of the way, we need to format the tutorial so that we can add both instruction and pictures together in a readable format.

In all of my tutorials I use a 2 column table format to set my instructions apart from the rest of the tutorials test. In the right column I place the instructions. In the left column all of the pictures that go along with those instructions will appear.

Remember, I only add a table **AFTER** I have written all of my instructions. I found out the hard way that dealing with a table as I am writing the instructions is really difficult. Once I assumed that the tutorial would only be 12 long. So I inserted a 2 column table that had 12 rows (one row for each step). As I was writing I realized that I needed to add a step. That completely threw everything off. It was a royal pain in the rump trying to add a row in the middle of the instructions. Needless to say I never did that again. Now I take the time to write all of the instructions first.

To add a table in Microsoft Word (that's the document editor that I use) all you have to do is click on the "Table" tab at the top of the tool bar. Now move your mouse pointer over "Insert" that will open an extension window that has the word "Table" at the top of the list. Click on the word "Table" in the extension window. This will bring up a dialog box that will help you properly set up your table.

The first thing that we need to do in this dialog box is set the "Number of Columns". Set the number to the right of that heading to 2. That gives us a 2 column table, one side for pictures and one side for instructions. Next, we need to set up "Number of Rows". To do this you need to count how many steps that it takes to complete the jewelry piece that this tutorial is for. Enter that number to the right of the "Number of Rows" heading. The last thing is the "Fixed Column Width" heading. Make sure that there is a dot to the left of this heading. To the right, make sure that "Auto" is selected in the drop down menu. Once you have entered everything, click "OK" at the bottom of the dialog box. This will add a text box to your tutorial.

Now all that is left is to highlight, cut, and paste each set of instructions into the right column of the table. Make sure that there is only one set of instructions in each row in the right hand column.

Next Week – We'll get away from tutorial writing and talk about making jewelry.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 RIP Old Computer...I Owe All of You Another Apology
- 1 Writing Tutorials – Part 3
- 2 This Weeks Members Special
- 2 Calendar of Events

THIS WEEKS MEMEBERS SPECIAL

Because of all that has gone on this last week or so, we haven't been able to put together a Member Special for the Week. We hope that you understand the reasons why. This feature will return next week.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL BE PLANNING SOME SPECIAL EVENTS AROUND THE U.S. THIS SPRING AND SUMMER. THESE EVENTS WILL GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET EVERYONE AND DISCUSS WIRT ART. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN EVENT IN YOUR AREA OF THE COUNTRY, PLEASE EMAIL US AT JIM.MCINTOSH@MACJEWELS.COM AND LET US KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, AND WHAT BEAD/HOBBY SHOP IS IN YOUR AREA.

EACH EVENT WILL HAVE A BOOK SIGNING EVENT FOLLOWED BY A BASIC/INTERMEDIATE WIRE ART CLASS TAUGHT BY JIM MCINTOSH (THAT'S ME) AUTHOR OF "WIRE WRAPPING: THE BASICS AND BEYOND". THE CLASS SPACE WILL BE LIMITED TO 15 STUDENTS. WE DO THIS SO THAT WE CAN OFFER EVERYONE THE ATTENTION THAT THEY WILL NEED TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE CLASS.

WE HAVE SET UP OUR FIRST SPECIAL EVENT, BELOW IS THE INFORMATION FOR THAT EVENT.

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE: CENTER FOR BEADWORK & JEWELRY ARTS
718 THOMPSON LANE, SUITE 123
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37204

PHONE: (615)292-0610

DATE: MARCH 29, 2008

TIME: NOON-4:00PM

To learn more about this and other events, please visit-

<http://www.macjewels.com>

Click on the 'Take a Class' Tab