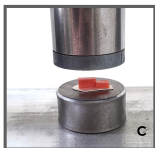
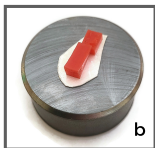
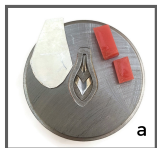


Chevron Drop Earrings

by *Annie Pennington*

From the September 2020 Subscription Box



Tools & Supplies

- 22- or 20-gauge fine silver sheet
 - 20-gauge sterling silver wire and 3mm ID closed jump rings
 - Jeweler's saw with 4/0 or 6/0 blade
 - Soldering/annealing station; hard and easy silver solder
 - Chevron Drop impression die
 - Tiny urethane pieces
 - 20-ton hydraulic press
 - Bench knife or chisel
 - Hammers: plastic or rawhide mallet, planishing
 - Fine-tip permanent marker
 - Abrasive paper and polishing wheels: assorted grits and types
 - Flat, steel surface
 - Files: flat/half-round hand file and needle file, three-square (triangle) needle file, round needle file
 - Liver of sulfur and other finishing and polishing supplies
- Small pot, baking soda (optional)*

1. Cut four pieces of 22- or 20-gauge fine silver larger than the impression die design. Anneal the silver (a).

2. Place one piece of silver on top of the impression die. Place tiny pieces of 95 durometer urethane on the silver over the design of the impression die (b).

3. Center the die on the lower platen of your press, and use a 2" tool-steel pusher to press the silver into the die (c).

4. Anneal the silver, and repeat to press until you're satisfied with the impression. If your metal is stuck, use a bench knife or chisel along the edge to carefully pop the silver out of the die (d). Repeat to make a total of four impressions (e).

5. Use a fine-tip permanent marker to trace around the impression on the top of the silver to create a border (f).

6. Use a jeweler's saw and a 4/0 or 6/0 blade to cut out the impression, following the outside of the marked line as a guide (g).

7. Place a piece of 400-grit abrasive paper on a flat, steel bench block. Using a circular and figure-8 motion, sand the bottom of the impression until it's flat (h).

8. Place one impression on a soldering pad. Apply flux, and place pallions of hard silver solder along the edge (i).

9. Heat the silver until the solder flows (j). Let the silver cool until it's no longer glowing, then pickle, if needed.

10. Apply flux to a solder-free impression. Align these two impressions, and use cross-locking tweezers to hold the two together (k). Heat the assembly evenly until the solder re-flows and runs around the edge.

11. Use hand files and needle files to smooth the edges of the hollow form. Make sure to leave a small border/edge around the entire shape (l).

12. Use a triangle needle file to file a groove centered on the end. Once the groove is established, use a round needle file or cylinder bur to widen it into a rounded channel approx. 1mm wide. If your groove is deep enough, you should be able to press a scribe or awl at the center of the groove and create a pinhole opening into the hollow form.

13. Solder a closed ring into the groove, and pickle and rinse the assembly (m).

14. Make ear wires with 20-gauge sterling silver wire, attach them to the drops, and finish the earrings as desired.

