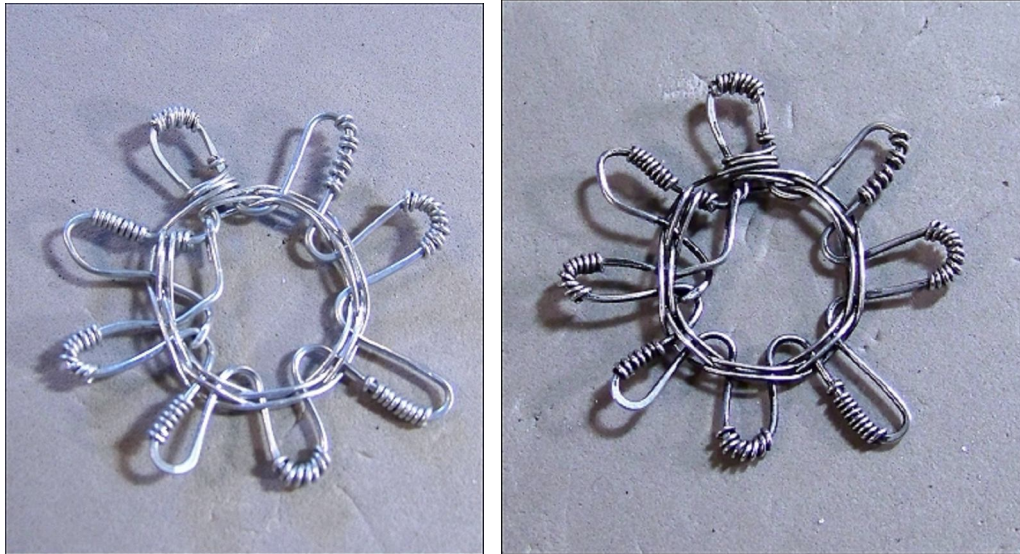


Get The Oxidized Look – Without Oxidizing

Jai Johnson



Love the oxidized look? So do I – but oxidation methods will only work with certain types of metal. For instance, stainless steel, titanium, tantalum and niobium are highly resistant to oxidation. Craft wire, plated wire, and coated wires will not oxidize. Traditional oxidation techniques will not work on these wires. *But that doesn't mean you can't create the same look with your jewelry!*

It is possible to create the oxidized look with other metals. I use this technique frequently in my work, as I like the antique appearance and depth it adds to certain jewelry pieces. The darkened effect helps to show off details in a finished piece of jewelry. When some areas of the metal are darkened, the detail is much easier to see.

In this tutorial you'll learn how to create the oxidized look with those pieces of jewelry created with metals resistant to oxidation. I hope you enjoy this tutorial. If you have any questions about any of the steps involved, please feel free to email me at jaiart@michelejanine.com

Jai Johnson



Tutorial: Get the Oxidized Look – Without Oxidizing

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This lesson shows you how to create the oxidized look with one amazing product – a metal stain called **COLOR MAGIC**.

Materials Needed:

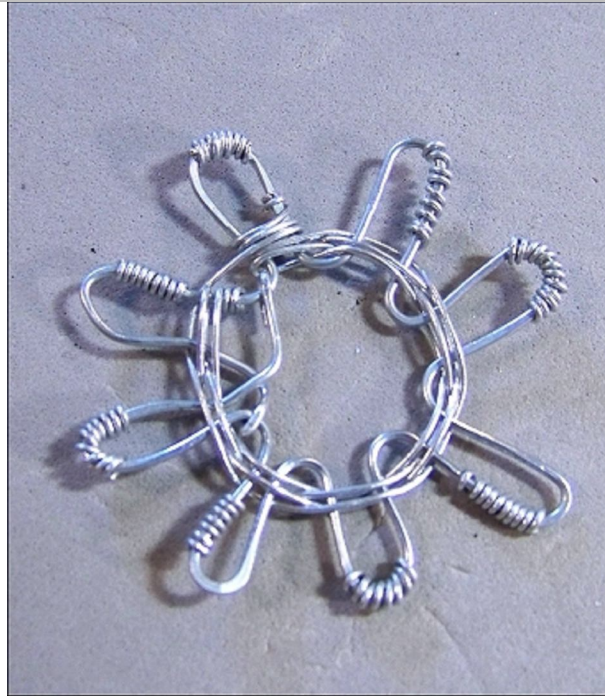
- 1 Bottle of **Black Matte Color Magic** Metal Stain
- Vinyl Gloves
- Paper Towels
- A face mask
- Fine Steel Wool

Note: I purchase my Color Magic from a stained glass supplier GlassMart.Com – here is the direct link:

<http://www.glassmart.com/colormagic.asp>

You want to order the **black** – *make sure it's not the transparent kind...* the product code is **OP-Black (matte)**

The other colors are fun too, and can add interesting tints to your metal jewelry!



Unlike traditional oxidation methods, you don't completely finish construction of your jewelry before using this technique. The reason? The black metal stain will also stain your stones or pearls! So you want to use this technique **BEFORE** adding your stones if possible. It is possible to add the color magic to a jewel with stones already in place if you're **very careful**. I prefer to work up to the point of adding stones, do the technique, and then add the stones afterwards.

Here you see a prepared base – fully wired – without stones or pearls added. It is ready to get the oxidized look.



Put on your mask. Color Magic has a very strong odor and some strong fumes – you don't want to inhale it if you can avoid it! If you can open a window or do this outside, that will also help with ventilation.

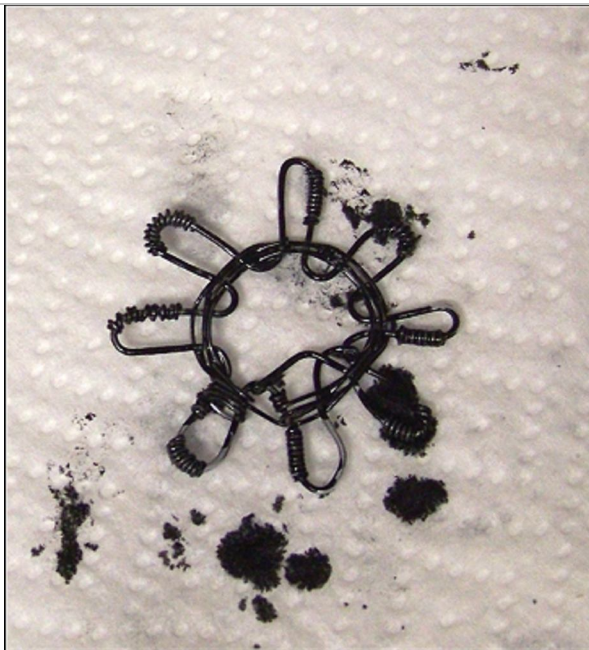
**I am extremely sensitive to chemicals, as I was poisoned many years ago. As long as I use these precautions, I have no problems with this product.*

Put on gloves – or at least one glove so you can hold the metal without getting the stain on your fingers. It is **TOUGH** to get off your fingers. The only way I've found is with nail polish remover. I wear a glove and suggest you do as well.

Open the bottle of Color Magic. Like nail polish, it has a little brush. Begin applying the stain to the areas where wire is woven/wrapped/coiled. Use the brush to get the stain down into the grooves and crevices.



Apply the color magic stain to all areas. Don't worry if it gets on the smooth (non-wrapped) areas. You'll get that off later with some steel wool.



Once your metal is totally covered (front and back) with the black stain, lay the jewel on a layer of several paper towels to dry. It won't take long – 15-30 minutes will do.

You might wish to put some plastic or foil under your paper towels, so the stain will not seep through to your work area.



Once the metal is dry, it's time to polish the piece with steel wool. I purchased super fine steel wool (grade #0000) from my local hardware store in a large package. I tear apart the rolls of the steel wool to make smaller pieces to work with.

Before you begin rubbing your jewel with the steel wool, make sure you're holding the jewel and steel wool over a trashcan. ***This is very important!*** If you do this over a desk, you'll have steel shavings all over the place!



Start scrubbing the jewel with the steel wool pad (while holding it over that trash can!). Don't worry about getting into the crevices with the steel wool – you WANT the black color to remain there.

Scrub the entire front, back, and edges of your jewel.



Here I've scrubbed one half of the jewel. See the difference from one side to the other? The left side has been done and the right hasn't yet.

Keep scrubbing until your jewel looks good to you.



Here's the completed wire jewel, with depth and character. It's now ready for you to add your stones or beads. I usually do NOT color the new wire I add beads onto, as most of that wire won't be seen since it will be housed inside the beads.

Note: There is also a Color Magic stain sealant you can purchase. I personally don't use it, as I've never found it necessary. Once the metal is stained, it's not coming off. The sealant is more or less to prevent scratches to the color – because the color is only left inside the grooves and coils of the wire, it's very doubtful it will become scratched.

I do advise my jewelry purchasers **NOT** to put their jewel in any commercial jewelry cleaner. *These cleaners usually have alcohol, which could damage the look.* I tell them if their jewel needs cleaning, to polish with a soft cloth or use steel wool on the metal parts to bring back shine.

OTHER OPTIONS



*Pendant Stained & Beaded with
Gemstones & Pearls*

A few of my jewelry friends have been experimenting with alcohol inks as a tinting method. I personally haven't used them, so I can't say one way or another how they work for this process. If you like to experiment, you might want to give them a try. I prefer the Color Magic as it is specifically made to stain metal.

There may also be other metal stains out there in the marketplace. You may find some at your local hardware or automotive stores. I encourage you to experiment and find what works best for you. For me, it is the Color Magic Metal Stain.

I hope you've enjoyed this free tutorial!

Jai