

CLASSIC CLOISONNÉ

Keep Your Colors in Line

Add a timeless technique to your enameling repertoire.

by Jennifer Jordan Park and Cyndi Kuchler

The French word "cloisonné" means "partitioned." Cloisonné enamel is a technique that uses thin silver or gold wires to create partitions that form cells. These cells keep the enamels contained during firing, which allows the jewelry maker to create intricate designs with precisely delineated areas of color.

In the first part of this project, you'll texturize, cut, and shape fine-silver sheet to make disk supports for the cloisonné wires. In the second part, you'll add enamels, fire the assembly, and finish the disks. The third part of the project has you making sterling silver bezels, which you'll attach to earwires and set the enamel disks into. If you like, you can add a stone dangle that complements the color of the enamels.



The earrings' $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. (13 mm)-diameter enameled disks are set in sterling silver bezels. See the earrings shown actual size, page 67.