

## Ray Lloyd's Copper Foil Forming Workshop Region 7

Region 7 were recently treated to a wonderful demonstration given by Ray Lloyd on how to make beautiful enamelled replicas of sea-shells.

Ray has refined this original technique, and his pieces make lovely ornaments or table decorations.

The method he uses is outlined below.

### Copper Foil Sea-Shells

#### Equipment & Materials

1. Small sea-shells (up to about 5cm and not too knobbly, although they do need to have some "character" or they will not show up).
2. Burnisher (preferably curved).
3. Leather gloves (bending & burnishing can be hard on the fingers).
4. Abrasive sponge, cream cleaner & toothbrush.
5. Counter enamel, flux and coloured enamel powders (see suggestions below).
6. Copper foil/shim.
7. Klyr fire glue and paintbrush or klyr fire/water mix in mister spray.

#### Method

1. Clean both sides of shim with abrasive sponge to remove grease.
2. Select a good, firm shell (not conical).
3. Bend/stretch copper shim over the shell, allowing about a 3mm overlap to fold over and into the back of the shell.



4. Burnish from the centre out to the edges, pushing out any creases, and picking up texture from the surface of the shell. A small hammer can be used to gently tap out stubborn creases.
5. Continue to work the foil in this way to pick up all the ridges and surface texture.



6. Use an abrasive cream cleaner and toothbrush to clean the surface area, then remove the shell by gently unfolding the overlap, then refolding and file away any sharp edges. Clean the whole shell inside and out in the same way.



7. Apply klyr fire gum to both surfaces (using paintbrush or mister spray) and sift over flux enamel powder.
8. Place on mesh, then dry on top of kiln and fire.
9. Apply further gum and colours (transparent, or opaque for high firing such as soyer 159) then dry on top of kiln.
10. Fire fairly hot to encourage the gold effect of the copper to shine through.
11. Ensure no sharp edges are protruding, and file if necessary. Further colours and/or finishing flux may be added until a pleasing result is achieved.

Ruby Tomes