



Smithsonian Associates

## **Upcycled Jewelry with Alternate Materials**

**Instructor: Mia Vollkommer**

[2dotsoverthei@gmail.com](mailto:2dotsoverthei@gmail.com)

[www.shop2dots.com](http://www.shop2dots.com)

@2dotsoverthejewelry

Dear Students,

Over the 3 weeks of the class, we will be working in metal, fiber, and paper. I've listed the materials and tools for each week separately since you won't need to have *everything* for the first-class meeting. Also DON'T BE ALARMED that the list is long, I'd imagine 75% of what's on here are things you already have on hand.

On the last page you'll see that I'm offering 2 class kits that will be listed on my website (above) starting Tuesday May 24. If you're ordering a kit, please **do so ASAP**. Also don't hesitate to contact me at the email address above if you have questions. Can't wait to see you in class – Mia

### **Week 1 – Aluminum Jewelry**

- Washed and dried aluminum can – something colorful, and preferably with the design printed directly on the can (as opposed to a paper label)
- Work or Garden gloves – ESSENTIAL FOR SAFETY!
- A ruler
- Safety glasses (if you don't already wear glasses)
- An x-acto knife or box cutter with a new blade
- Beads – whatever you have on hand!
- Ear wires (2) and jump rings (6) if handy - these can be taken from old/broken jewelry, single earrings, etc.
- Masking or painter's tape
- Fine sharpie marker

If you already own jewelry making tools:

- Chain (flat) nose pliers
- [French style metal shears](#)
- Chasing hammer
- Steel block
- Wood block or bench pin
- Fine grit sandpaper
- Metal punch

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If you don't have jewelry making tools, use these:

- Needle nose pliers
- Kitchen scissors
- Regular hammer
- Wood block (an old cutting board is perfect)
- Emory board
- A small nail used with the hammer can replace the metal punch (i.e., 1-1.5 in long and 1 mm diameter (the point is twice as thick as a push pin))

## **Week 2**

### **Materials:**

- 20" of Wright's Cotton Filler Cord, (I found 3/8in at my local JoAnn's which is a nice diameter. A little bigger is fine too)
- Enough fabric to cover the cord (approx. 12"x12" square)
  - Fabric should be woven (cotton or linen preferred, no knits, man-made fabrics (like polyester) or fabrics with stretch), like fabric scraps from quilting, or an old garment (like a shirt or skirt).
  - Fabric should be cut on the bias into 2.25" strips (I'll demonstrate how to do this at the end of the first class)
- Embroidery floss – at least one color, but as many as you like
- Small beads (like size 6 or 8 seed beads)
- one 1/2" diameter button (can be bigger, this is for the clasp)

### **Tools:**

- Scissors
- Rotary cutter and self-healing matt (optional)
- 2 Needles – 1 with an eye large enough to accommodate the embroidery floss and 1 that is small enough to go through the seed beads
- Sewing Machine (optional)
- Iron

## **Week 3**

### **Materials:**

- 6 (or so) paint sample cards (from Lowe's, Home Depot, etc.)
  - Be sure to get the big ones (approx. 3x4" that are all one color) You can also pick up the ones with multiple bands of color for accents
- Any quick drying glue (hot glue is great, or Aleen's/Elmer's brands that are labeled as quick drying. If you have none of these, we'll work with what you do have)
- 3'x3' of thin cork, craft foam, or thick cardboard (this will be used to create dimension in your piece)
- Embroidery Floss and beads left over from your necklace
- [2 small pins with clutch backs](#)
- Tools:
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Shape stencils or other shapes you can trace
- Needles

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**Class Kits will include the following. The cost is \$35 plus shipping.**

- Ear wires (2) and jump rings (6) if handy - these can be taken from old/broken jewelry, single earrings, etc.
- Fine grit sandpaper
- 20" of Wright's Cotton Filler Cord, (I found 3/8in at my local JoAnn's which is a nice diameter. A little bigger or smaller is fine too)
- Pre-cut fabric (in warm or cool options) to cover the cord
- Embroidery floss – one complementary and one contrasting
- 2 needles of appropriate size for floss and beads
- 6 (or so) paint sample cards (from Lowe's, Home Depot, etc.)
- 2 small pins with clutch backs

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