

Vintage Tin “Journey” Locket

By Brandy-Michelle

Locketts have been around for ages. They are heirlooms that hold our most precious moments and memories of loved ones. When we come across one with photos of unfamiliar people, our imaginations race as to whom they could be, or were, in their glory days. Locketts are a fascinating piece of a person’s history and although they usually come in a traditional heart shape or oval clasping pendant, many interesting variations have been invented over the decades of jewelry design.

This one proves to be quite a unique take from the original. An array of vintage ephemera, lace, and other media creates this charming version of a keepsake we have come to love over the centuries. It suggests a message of a “Journey Across Time.”



Materials List

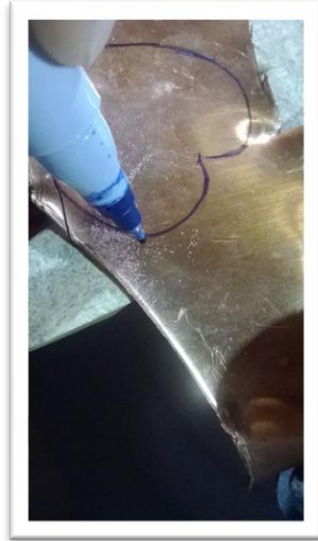
- 20 g copper sheet
- 16g copper wire
- Aluminum slider tin (vintage lip gloss tin)
- Liver of sulfur solution in plastic bowl
- Lace, burlap, card stock
- Variety of vintage ephemera and findings (Idea-ology keys, stamped discs, birds, etc)
- Your own personal memorabilia, photos, scraps, etc.
- Beads or pearls
- Vintage Stamps
- Ice Resin

Tool List – Don’t forget Safety Glasses!

- E6000 Jewelers glue
- X-acto Knife
- Needle files - flat and rounded (size 0)
- Sanding sponge/sand paper 320 grit
- Jeweler’s saw
- #2/0 saw blades
- Torch, quench, pickle, flux
- Copper tongs
- Chasing/Ball peen hammer
- WUBBERS Classic Round Nose Pliers
- Center Punch
- Brass brush
- Sharpie pen, fine tip
- X-acto Knife or awl (optional)
- Safety glasses
- WUBBERS Classic Bent Nose Pliers
- Metal Hole punch/hand drill or dremel
- Small drill bit
- Flush cutters
- Soldering block/annealing pan
- Texturing hammers
- Steel Bench Block
- Small plastic container
- Wooden dapping block
- Dawn detergent

Heart & Lock pattern

Step 1



On a sheet of copper (approx. 2" X 2"), draw a heart pattern with a fine tip Sharpie. Scribe the pattern with an x-acto knife or an awl, if needed, to see the line better.



Saw out the shape as close to the line as possible. File, as needed, to help better form the shape of the heart and sand the edges and top smooth.

Don't Forget Safety Glasses Here!

Step 2



Draw the shape of a lock in center of the heart. (This can be freehanded.) Use a center punch to make a small divot. This so the drill does not skate across the metal and scar it.



Drill a hole using a small drill bit, insert the saw blade into the hole, and saw out the lock piece.



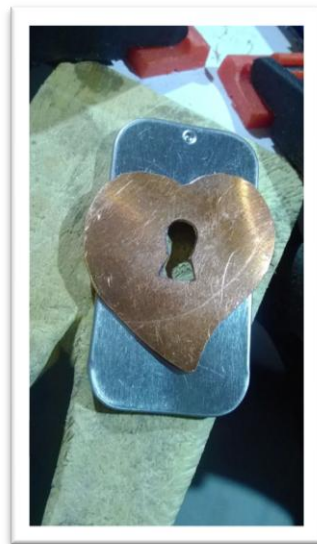
File and sand the edges smooth.

Matching the Lock

Step 3



Using the cut out from the heart, trace the lock shape onto the top of the tin so that it lines up with the lock on heart. Pierce and saw out the lock piece from the tin top. (See step 2)



When laying the heart piece on top of the tin, it should match up well, so that surface beneath can be seen through.

Anneal and Texture

Step 4

Make sure the surface of the copper is clean and fluxed. Anneal the entire heart piece to cherry red to ensure the metal softens enough to take some texture. Let the metal air cool before it is quenched in water, then place the in the pickle for 3-4 minutes. Clean the surface with Dawn detergent and a brass brush.



Step 5

Place the heart on a steel bench block and texture it with any texture hammer for desired effect.

(The texture shown is achieved with a dotted texture hammer and riveting hammer for the edges.)



Balling copper wire

Step 6

Cut two pieces of 16 g copper wire (approx. 4" long)
File the ends smooth.

Using a medium flame, heat the wire, and concentrate the flame on the tip of the wire. When the wire turns cherry red hold the temperature and wait for a ball to form on the end of the wire.

When you see it form to the size needed, remove the flame and pickle. Leave in for about 2 minutes, and then rinse in cool water.

***Note:** Balling copper wire takes patience as it may require a longer time, depending on your torch.



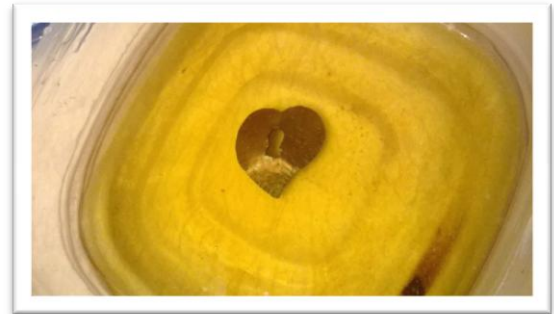
Dapping Step 7

With a wooden dapping block, punch and hammer, place the heart piece inside dapping block, making sure the entire heart fits within the depression. With a punch and hammer, form the heart by hammering the punch in the center and all around edges for a well-domed, 3-D shape.



Adding patina Step 8

In a plastic bowl of warm water, add a half inch piece of liver of sulfur. Mix thoroughly and dip heart and wire pieces until desired effect is seen.



Step 9

Rinse with clean water and dab dry with paper towels. With a brass bristle brush, scrub off some of the black to reveal the patinated copper, highlighting the texture. If you go around the edges with a very fine sanding sponge or emery board, you can add a bit of shine to the edges, which is very pretty.

Interior Locket Box Step 10

Punch drill marks on top and bottom of the bottom locket box. Drill or punch out holes with a metal hole punch or drill bit. Insert the copper wires so that the balled end is on inside of locket piece. The straight end will face out so that it can be wrapped and made into a bail to hold a chain at top and the key charm on the bottom.



Step 11



Use round nose pliers to loop wire and wrap remaining wire around loop, using bent nose pliers to hold loop steady. This will be the bail for a future chain.



Repeat the same process for bottom, only loop the wire around key before wrapping. The new Wubbers Large Looping Pliers work great for this.

Step 12



To decorate the inside of the box, choose whatever vintage ephemera desired. The inside box here displays a piece of burlap with stamped card stock, and a cut out photo of Charlie Chaplin.

Step 13



Cut off the tip of an Ice Resin syringe and squeeze about a tablespoon full into a small, plastic measuring container, and mix for 60 seconds.



Making sure the locket box is sitting on a flat, even surface, pour the resin into the box over the ephemera. This will allow resin to spread evenly over the pieces. Let sit overnight for a complete drying time.

Step 14 (optional)



For a more tailored and softer look, Decorator tape can be added on the outside rim. On the back, a pair of wings can be added for a whimsical look.



Lace trim was cut in the shape of angel wings and adhered to the back using E6000 glue.

Locket Top Design Step 15



Using rubber stamps, stamp a favorite design onto a piece of decorative card stock. Cut pieces of lace and attach them to opposite corners. At this time you will adhere your heart piece, ensuring it matches up to the lock cutout on tin piece. Add a charm or other ephemera on bottom of the heart with E6000 glue and let set for about 15 minutes.

TIP: E6000 does not adhere automatically to allow re-alignment of pieces, if needed. Keep the piece flat until completely dry so that pieces will not shift.

The Finished Look



This unique, mixed media locket was a joy to make and adds a great and whimsical touch to any collection. It is a great way to share your personal history with others.

Review Questions

- 1) When annealing, what color should metal turn to ensure proper malleability?
 - a) Indigo blue
 - b) Cherry red
 - c) violet
 - d) white
- 2) True or False. E6000 glue adheres very quickly.
 - a) True
 - b) False
- 3) True or False. A dapping punch is used to mark drill hole.
 - a) True
 - b) False, use a center punch.
- 4) Copper wire will ball up very quickly.
 - a) True
 - b) False
- 5) Add copper wire into the locket box before applying resin.
 - a) True
 - b) False