

Tumbling Hearts Earrings

24K Gold on Sterling Silver

Skill Level: Beginner

Supplies

3/4" diameter sterling silver discs (3 discs)
 2.5 or 3mm sterling silver jump rings (4 pieces)
 Sterling silver earwires
 Accent Gold for Silver™
 Pickle mix

Toolbox

Fine point Sharpie marker	Curved burnisher
Brass brush	Rotary tool or pin vice for drilling
Metal shears	Utility hammer
Metal punch	Waffle hammer or other texture hammer
1mm Drill	Hardened bench block
Bench knife	Torch and fireproof heating surface



Step by Step Instructions

1. Cut each of the discs in half using the metal shears. Cut one of the halves in half again to create quarters. (Photos of each step are on page 2)
2. Use the Sharpie marker to draw a heart shape on the two quartered pieces as shown. Use the shears to cut out the shape. Only the top needs to be cut. It is not necessary to saw these out perfectly. A little funk only makes these look better.
3. Texture the front of each of the pieces using a textured hammer. We used an old waffle-headed hammer and a rusty metal block. (Important: if your bench block is not hardened steel, it will be dented from the hammer.)
4. Arrange the textured pieces as they will be connected. Use the Sharpie to mark where holes are to be drilled in each piece. Use the metal punch and the utility hammer to make a divit where each hole will be drilled. Install the drill in the rotary tool or pin vice and drill the holes. Use the bench knife to scrape off any burs left from drilling.
5. Depletion gild the sterling parts. (Instructions for depletion gilding can be downloaded from www.cooltools.us). Apply Accent Gold for Silver™ according to the instructions included with the product or download from www.cooltools.us.
6. When the pieces are coated and thoroughly dried, heat each piece with a torch until the silver glows a dull salmon color and the gold glows bright orange. Hold this color for about 2 minutes. Allow to air cool
7. Burnish the gold firmly using a curved burnisher to compact and polish the gold surface. After this step, the pieces can be tumble polished if desired or they can be hand polished.
8. Assemble the parts.
9. As a finishing option, try heating the assembled earrings gently with a torch until the earwires and jumprings darken. Then pickle the entire earring until the surface is bright white. This makes a lovely finish that is durable and very slow to oxidize, and the white color sets off the gold beautifully.

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Step by Step Photos



1. Cut the discs. They do not need to be flattened.



2. Draw the top of the heart shape on the quarters and cut out with shears.



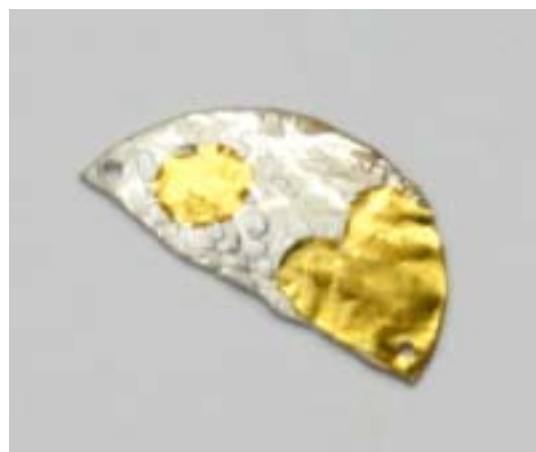
3 & 4. Texture each part, mark and drill holes.



6. Torch fire. The silver should glow a dull salmon color, the gold bright orange.



Caution! This is overheated. Silver should not be deep salmon or red.



7. Compact and burnish the gold surface with a curved burnisher before finishing.