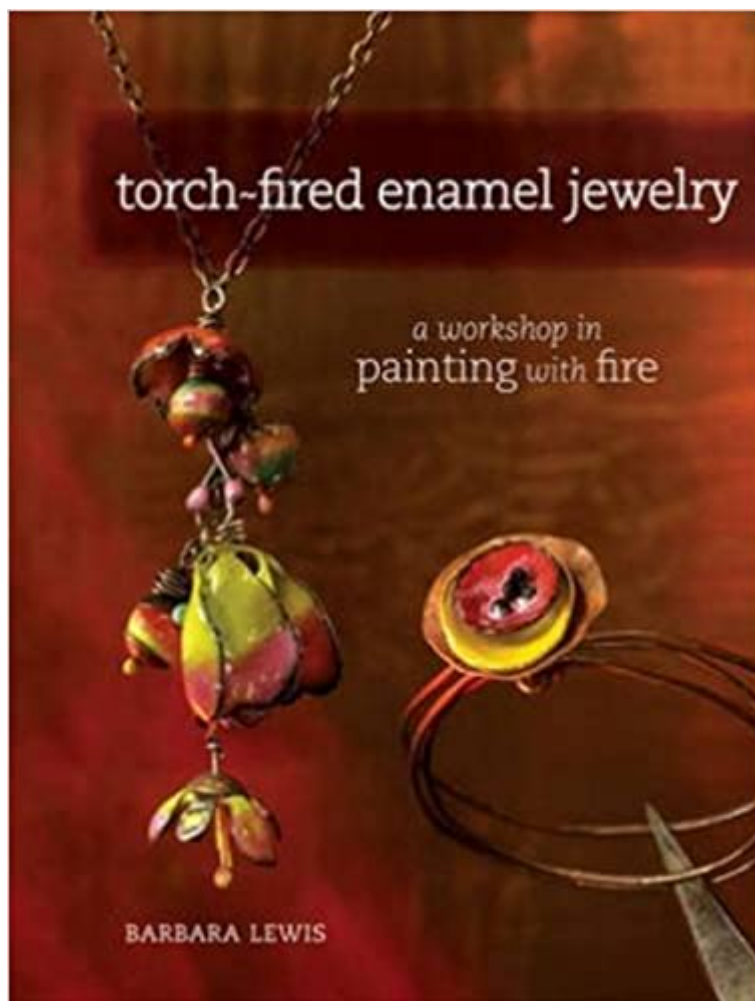


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# Torch-Fired Enamel Jewelry: A Workshop In Painting With Fire



## Synopsis

Torch-Fired Enamel Jewelry combines beading and wire-working techniques with the intense beauty of torch-fired enameled beads. Metal becomes your canvas as you learn the basics of enameling with a torch, then dive into 22 exquisite pieces, ranging from quirky "cattywampus" earrings to ethereal pendants to delicate multi-stranded necklaces. Find out how easy it is to create unique and colorful enamel pieces in this innovative, comprehensive guide to the world of torch-fired enameling. Inside you'll find: A hands-on, in-depth approach to enameling beads, pendants and other metal findings using a torch instead of a kiln. An extensive enameling workshop, with information on equipment, materials and safety considerations. Tips and tricks for making truly unique pieces: learn how to modulate color, create burnt edges and manipulate the gas/oxygen ratio to achieve color flashes and smoky hazes. Jewelry and metal-working techniques, from wire-wrapping to etching copper sheet, that create a perfect backdrop to your stunning enamel creations. Light the torch, gather your enamels and start painting with fire in Torch-Fired Enamel Jewelry.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Featured Project by Barbara Lewis: Harem Bracelet I can't decide if this is a bracelet or an anklet. It can only be an anklet if you're willing to break out into dance when you wear it! Whatever you decide, this piece is fun and easy to make. It's perfect for the hodgepodge of leftovers on your worktable--a "bench collection" of sorts. Don't dwell on planning your design;

if you go with the flow, it will truly reflect you and your work. Findings 1 4" x 7" (6mm x 17.78cm) foam tube 4 yard (0.23m) woven fabric 19-gauge annealed steel wire 22-gauge sterling wire assorted manufactured beads and flower bead caps eight 11mm solid jump rings four 12mm corrugated iron beads one copper-plated lobster clasp ribbon and fiber strands two 17mm iron flower bead caps Enamels Clover, opaque (1715) Lime yellow, transparent (2230) Pumpkin, opaque (1850) Turquoise, transparent (2435) White, opaque (1055) Tools Chain-nose pliers Iron and ironing board or mat Round-nose pliers Scissors Spray adhesive Wire cutters

**Preparing Fabric for Cutting Bias Strips** Establish the straight of grain: Use scissors to place a snip into the selvedge edge of woven fabric, about 1" (2.54cm) from the cut edge. (The selvedge edges are the two finished edges of the fabric as it comes from the factory.) Tear the fabric at the snip. Establish the bias grain: Place the fabric on a flat surface. Pick up one corner of the fabric and bring the end diagonally across the fabric so that one torn edge of the fabric will rest on top of one selvedge edge of the fabric. Press the fold with an iron.

**Instructions** Use the directions at left to establish the straight of grain and the bias grain for 1/4 yard (0.23m) of woven fabric. Cut through the ironed fold in the fabric. Measure and mark 1" (2.54cm) from the cut edge along the length of the fabric. Cut a 15" (38.1cm) bias strip. Spray adhesive on a 4" x 7" (6mm x 17.78cm) piece of foam tubing. Starting at one end and working across, wrap the bias strip around the foam. Enamel four 12mm corrugated beads: one in white with lime yellow on top, one in white with turquoise on top, one in pumpkin and one in clover. Enamel two 17mm flower bead caps in pumpkin and clover. Thread a 4" (10.16cm) segment of 22-gauge sterling silver wire through a solid jump ring and make a wrapped loop. Thread a bead cap, an enamel bead and another bead cap onto the wire. Make a wrapped loop flush against the bead cap, but before finishing it, attach a small rhinestone dangle link. Wrap the loop with the excess wire. Create six dangles. You can choose to add different enamel and manufactured findings to the dangles as desired. Go wild! Wrap a bundle of ribbon and fiber strands around the tubing, starting 1" (2.54cm) from the end. Tie the ends in overhand knots to secure. Slide a dangle onto the bracelet. Wrap another ribbon and fiber bundle after the first dangle to keep it from sliding on the bracelet. Continue sliding on dangles and wrapping bundles on the bracelet, stopping 1" (2.54cm) from the end and ending with a ribbon and fiber bundle. Pierce the end of the foam bracelet with 3" (7.62cm) of 19-gauge annealed steel wire. Fold the ends up, keeping one end longer than the other. Wrap the shorter wire end around the longer wire end. Thread an enamel bead cap onto the wire. Trim the excess wire and make a simple loop flush against the bead cap. Attach an 11mm solid jump ring to the loop. Repeat Steps 8 and 9 on the other side of the bracelet, but attach a lobster clasp before

closing the simple loop.

I am so proud of the work I did for this book! ã ã The "immersion" technique of torch-firing is groundbreaking! ã ã Can you imagine enameling a bead in 40 seconds instead of 40 minutes? ã ã How about enameling pendants in the same amount of time, but also embedding watch gears and millefiori wafers while the pendant is still on the mandrel. ã ã Easy, quick, and extremely affordable! No \$500 kilns required. ã ã For about \$100 you'll have the torch, the bead pulling station (the workhorse of the system), several enamels, copper pieces and metal beads, mandrels, clamps ... everything you need for a beginning enamel studio. Besides the enameling part, you'll learn how to make a no-solder bezel and a rivet that requires no hammer! ã ã There's some cool fold-forming and metalworking projects that use simple tools ... a pair of metal snips, a two-hole punch, and a hammer. ã ã It doesn't get more basic than that but wait 'til you see the jewelry you can create! ã ã Welcome to my world! ã ã I hope you'll join me here. ã ã If you want to check out the torch-fired enamel scene, please join me at [paintingwithfire.ning.com](http://paintingwithfire.ning.com), where it's all about torch-firing. Also, please check out the website for my book: ã ã [torchfiredenameljewelry.com](http://torchfiredenameljewelry.com). ã ã :-)

ã ã Barbara

I pre-ordered this book in May and it was worth the wait! The book is divided into 2 main sections. The first section is dedicated to technique and technical aspects of torch fired enamel jewelry. The second section is dedicated to projects, but also includes several additional techniques not included in the 1st section. Information included in the tech section starts with a brief history of this particular enameling technique. The first technical aspect you learn about is what types of metal are appropriate for enameling, what colors to start out with (because there are SO MANY COLOR CHOICES!), how the colors interact with each other, appropriate method for using transparent vs. opaque, using the torch flame to advantage. That is just the beginning. Barbara Lewis also covers how to set up a proper workspace and the few tools you will need (not many at ALL!) and the most important tool, the torch. This technique does not require an expensive torch or an elaborate set-up. I will give you a little hint...the Fireworks torch can be purchased at Hobby Lobby. Use a 40% coupon and get it for a GREAT price. Included in the info about tools is a box titled Drill Bits Demystified which is incredibly helpful when trying to order bits or deciding which size you need to use for which size wire. There are two pages of how to torch fire beads with large clear photos and step by step instructions with tips sprinkled about to help you achieve success. The two pages after that include how to torch fire pendants and charms, safety, enameling tips, and a FULL page

dedicated to troubleshooting. Following that is two pages dedicated to large clear photos and step by step instructions for torch firing head pins and twisty tendrils with great info and a warning to not skip a single step. Barbara covers etching copper, heat riveting, terminology, then basic jewelry making techniques before jumping into the projects. Let me just say, at this point in the book (the end of the techniques section), the book is an incredible deal. I took an enameling class with Susan Lenart Kazmer (which I LOVED and made some wonderful things) which cost me around \$300 (probably more, but I don't remember for sure) and then I couldn't easily adapt the technique at home because my torch is stationary and the technique we used there required sifting enamel and being able to move the torch around. The last thing I want to do is try to move my lampwork torch around as there is not really a safe way to do that. Anyway, even though the book is a great value with just the technique section, there is still an entire section of the book dedicated to over 20 projects! The thing is, it's not just some ideas of how to string your enameled components. There are all kinds of metal working how-to's sprinkled throughout. There are tons of LARGE, clear, beautiful photos with step-by steps. Materials lists are thorough. Plus, I just love looking at Barb's work. The book really is beautiful. If you have any interest in enameling or using enameled components, you will love this book. I am completely fired up to try this technique.

I will be straight up from the get go, I am writing my review because I was made aware of some VERY negative reviews on this book that had little to do with the book itself, but were more a character attack on the author. I almost never write reviews because I am too busy doing artistic, creative things with my life to bother with spending my time writing about my opinions online. My husband and I have bought dozens and dozens of books from over the years, but I don't think either of us has ever left a review, until now! I became aware of Barbara Lewis in 2011. I joined her Ning group before I ever bought her book because I was so intrigued by the technique she was teaching. After discovering I could use the equipment I already had as a lampwork bead maker, I was extremely excited to get her book and try this technique. I have years of experience working with a torch and glass and found her technique to be fairly user friendly, but not without a learning curve. I believe anything worth doing is worth putting effort in and if it's SO easy that it takes NO effort at all, it's not likely to be something I would want to keep doing. I make and sell my own jewelry designs, so I like using techniques that are interesting and exciting, but not the kind of thing you can run down to Micheal's and pick up all the supplies for and make in a weekend. I like true art. That which takes time to perfect, but is fairly accessible from the start. I believe what Barbara teaches is just that. You can be successful on your first bead, but it does take time to learn how to

master all the subtle nuances of enamels. I think Barbara does a wonderful job of explaining the basic technique in this book and then builds upon it in the projects in the book. Any book of this size has its limits as to the content of information it can contain. Some knowledge in any art/craft book is always assumed. A good book will never be the same as taking a class in person, but a good book will certainly teach you what you need to know to get started in a subject. I don't believe this book claims to be an exhaustive study on the subject. I have found Barbara to be extremely accessible. She participates in the online website she has set up to be a supplement to this book, which ANYONE can join. There are also a ton of wonderful people active there as well, who are normal, everyday people, willing to help with problem solving should you have any questions. I have NEVER bought any other book on any subject that came with a built in community to support it! I am always sad to see when people think it's OK to attack a person's character online. It's far too easy to hide behind a computer and the anonymity that brings you. Barbara Lewis wrote a book, she's also a real person with real feelings. I wonder if that is taken into consideration when a person sits down behind a computer key board to type up a "book review", and ends up attacking the person who wrote it, questions their motives and character.... I know I wouldn't like it very much if it were done to me. I think we need to remember our humanity a little more often when behind our computers.

If you've already tried torch enameling and want to learn how to make some jewelry pieces this may be the book for you. Not much information about enamel or the differences and when to use which type of enamel. This book is strictly showing a person how to make torch enameled beads using a mandrel which is a good starting point. Seems there is more information on making jewelry than torch firing enamel...but then to be fair the name of the book is "Torch-fired enamel jewelry" not, how to torch fire enamel. You'll find some cute jewelry pieces to make and detailed wire, forming and even etching information. If you're looking for a book to teach you torch firing and working with enamels, I don't think this is the book for you.

I rarely write reviews, but this book impressed me so much, I just had to give it a shout out. If you are debating about purchasing this book, dither no longer, buy it. Very well written, excellent step by step instructions with clear photos. Each project includes an extensive materials list, including tools needed for the project. In addition to the enameling technique instructions, this book also contains lots of tips for working with metal, from etching to forming. I'm pleased to report that I picked up a few tricks just by flipping through it on the first read. Lots of cool jewelry to look at to. Inspired me to try my hand at enameling.

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