



## Efcolor Cold Enamel

Efco's Efcolor is a low temperature enamel powder which can be used on metal, glass, wood, porcelain, ceramic, stone, papier maché and other materials. A kiln is not required as Efcolor hardens at 150°C and can be fired in a domestic oven, on a hotplate or on the Efcolor tealight oven. However, it will withstand temperatures up to 180°C. At present there are 29 opaque colours, 4 transparent, 2 metallics, 6 texture and 5 glitter colours as well as a wide selection of copper blanks for use in jewellery, card making, scrapbooking and other craft projects.

## Basic Enamelling with Efcolor

1. Use fine sand paper to lightly sand the copper blank.
2. Place the blank on some scrap paper and holding the Efcolor tube approx 8cm from the surface, gently tap powder over the blank to cover the entire surface in a nice even layer.
3. Transfer the blank to the oven to melt the powder. This only takes a minute or two. (If using the tealight oven place it on a heat-resistant surface such as a couple of dinner mats.) Whilst it is heating it is a good idea to tip the excess powder from the paper back into the tube (just as you do with embossing powders when rubber stamping).
4. The powder has finished melting when it has developed a smooth glossy surface (except Texture Grey which retains a matt look). At this point, remove it from the heat and leave to cool.
5. In the main, to get a rich, deep look a second coat of powder will need to be applied.
6. When cool use fine sand paper to sand the back to remove any stray traces of enamel.

## Effects and Techniques

There are stands available so that you can enamel both sides of your object. The powder generally takes a little longer to melt when using the stand as the copper is raised off the oven surface and cannot transfer the heat as quickly. There is an adhesive which can be brushed on if you wish to paint your own design or if you are wanting to enamel a shaped object rather than a flat one. Be careful not to apply too much adhesive as it will bubble and ruin your finish if it is too thick or wet.

You can apply more than one coat of powder reheating after each one. This allows you to create a background and then a design on top. You can use stencils or even embed anything that can withstand 150°C. Efco have a range of silver coloured jewellery as well as some mini shells specially designed to work with the Efcolor powders. It is best to do your background first and then apply a second coat of powder to lay your jewellery on. You can also use gems as long as you remove the piece from the heat as soon as the powder has melted. If you leave it too long you will find your gem loses definition.

## Troubleshooting

If the finish looks patchy then not enough powder was applied before baking. The problem is easily resolved by applying more powder and re-baking. If the finish looks glossy and well covered but is undulated and not smooth then a thick uneven layer of powder was applied. It is better to apply several thin, even coats than to try to rush and do it in one (as it is in painting). If the finish looks smooth and glossy but has little holes giving it a dimpled appearance then too much powder was applied in one go and so, as it heated, tiny air bubbles would have risen to the surface and then popped as it cooled. You will find it easier to get a more even coverage with less chance of 'clumping' when applying the powder if you hold the tube approx 8cm above the blank. It is also a good idea to tap your powder tube on the scrap paper first to avoid a large mound suddenly appearing in the middle of your blank especially if you have already done your background and are only wanting to cover a small area. If using a domestic oven, it is strongly advised that you use an oven thermometer (as you would when baking polymer clay) as, if the temperature is too high, you could burn the powders.

