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## PROJECTS

### How to antique sterling silver.

Sterling silver is a wonderful medium to work with but there are times when we may not want its brilliant shiny finish. I have a few cute little antique silver Christmas charms that I want to make into a charm bracelet, the only hurdle is that my chain and findings are bright silver and I need to add a patina to them to make my design look any good.



There are some commercial chemical solutions you can use but I like to keep away from strong chemicals when possible and found an alternative fun solution to my mini dilemma.



Enter the humble chook and her egg!

All you need do is grab a single egg, the older the better and hard boil it, something I have to remind myself as I love soft boiled eggs!

After your egg has cooked crack the egg open, no need to peel.

Clean your piece of sterling silver and place into a sealed container or bag with your egg, don't let them touch!

Now it is simply a case of waiting for the colour you are after and removing your pieces. In hindsight I should not have added the jump rings to the chain until after the process, as the rings took much longer than the chain and clasp.





When you are finished you simply wash your metal in a little warm soapy water and buff up if you want a distressed look.

I buffed up the chain and clasp staying clear of the jump rings and love the finish. I know last Christmas is over but at least I am ready well in advance for this years office party!

I was wondering if this method would work on gold filled and gold vermeil (gold plated sterling silver) so decided to try a couple of pieces.

Both darkened dramatically but I think I prefer the gold filled link to the gold vermeil earrings. While they both ended up with a copper colouring, the earrings have quite a rough grainy look and were not so prone to buffing up for me. Maybe a little more experimentation is needed.



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