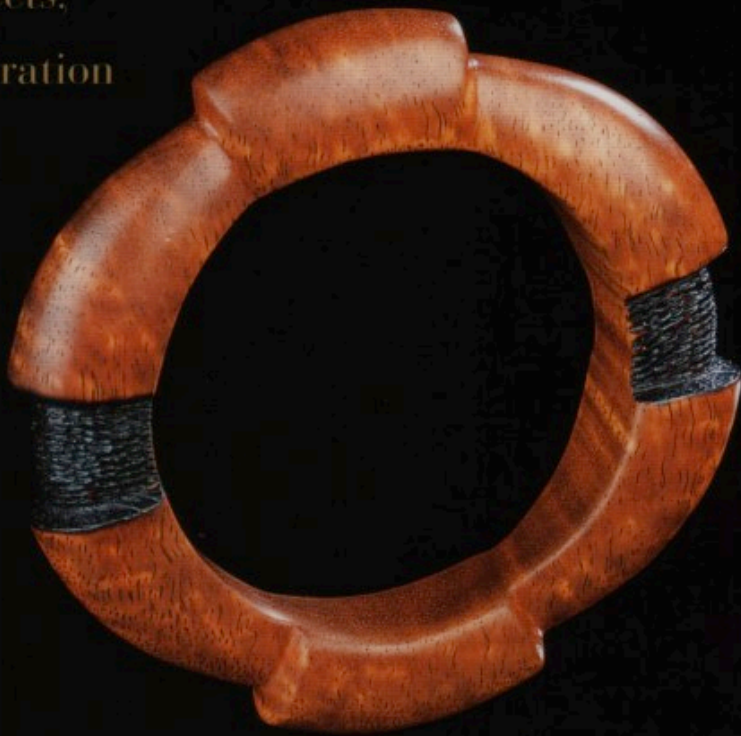



THE Art of Jewelry WOOD

Techniques,
Projects,
Inspiration



Terry Taylor

 A Lark Jewelry Book

Floating Pearl Pendant

ARTIST

Aaron Barr



THE PEARL IS THE
STAR OF THE SHOW
AS IT FLOATS
MIDAIR, SIMPLY
FRAMED WITH THE
RICH TONES OF RED
AND BLACK.

MATERIALS

Ebony, $\frac{1}{4}$ x $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches square
(6 mm x 32 mm)*

Redheart, $\frac{5}{16}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ inch square
(8 mm x 13 mm)*

Aluminum oxide sandpaper: 150, 220,
320, and 400 grit (500, 800, and
1000 grits optional)

Sterling silver tubing, 3 mm outside
diameter

Epoxy, two-part five-minute

Paper towels

Plastic sheet

Oil finish

Cotton rags

Steel wool, 0000 grade

Paste wax

Sterling silver wire, 20 gauge

Freshwater white pearl, 5 mm,
half-drilled

Commercial sterling silver neckwire

Sterling silver wire, 14-gauge (optional)

**The square faces of the ebony and
redheart pieces must be long grain.
In other words, these pieces should
not be cut from the ends of square
pieces of wood (photo A).*

TOOLS

Light-colored pencil

Compass or circle template

Drill, with $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch (3 mm) and
#65 drill bits

Jeweler's saw or scroll saw,
with blades

Half-round jeweler's file or full-size
round file

Drill press, with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (19 mm)
Forstner bit (optional)

Small C-clamps (optional)

Coping saw (optional)

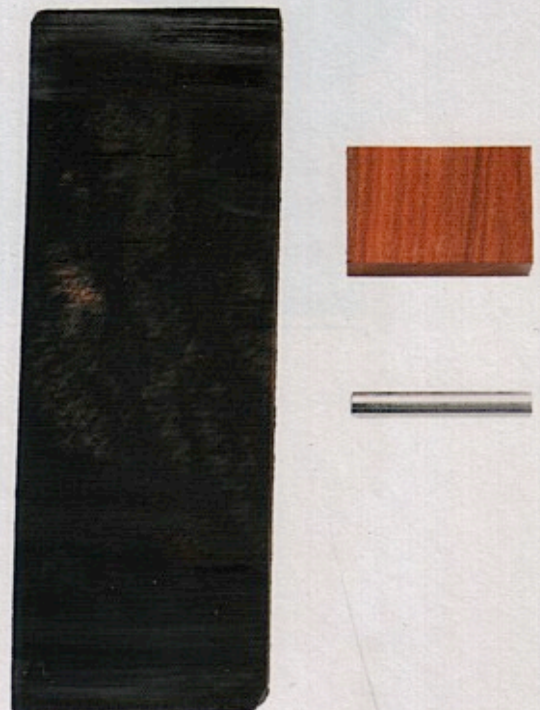
Vise or pliers

Scribe or nail

Narrow craft knife

Wire cutters

A



Working Tip

As you saw and sand, save the fine dust that accumulates to mix with a bit of epoxy in step 19.

PROCESS

1. Use the light-colored pencil to mark the center point on the ebony.
2. Using the compass or circle template, draw two concentric circles around your marked center point, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (19 mm) and 1 inch (25 mm) in diameter.
3. With the drill and $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch (3 mm) drill bit, drill a hole through the ebony anywhere inside the smaller circle.
4. Thread a saw blade through the hole, attach it to the jeweler's saw or scroll saw, and cut just inside the smaller circle (photo B).
5. Remove the saw blade, and use the half-round jeweler's file or full-size round

file to remove any wood inside the smaller circle.

6. Using the jeweler's saw or coping saw, cut around the outer circle mark.
7. File and sand the outer surface to make a smooth circle. Try to keep the surface flat across and the edges crisp to make a nice joint with the redheart piece. If desired, you may bevel the inside edges of the ring slightly.
8. Use the pencil to draw the shape of the bail on your piece of redheart. Mark the top end of your bail. Using the $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch (3 mm) drill bit, drill a hole for the neckwire horizontally through the top end of the bail. Bore the hole while the bail piece is still rectangular and close to its final size. Hold the redheart in a vise or with pliers while you drill.

The designer created a softened, $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-wide (10 mm) trapezoidal bail at the top, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) wide where it meets the ebony ring and about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (10 mm) tall. Decide whether you'd like the front

of the bail to be completely even with the ebony or to be thicker at the very top. The back of the bail should be flat, flush with the back of the ring, but it can have a domed or flat front. Make sure that the grain runs horizontally, not vertically. You can sand away the excess when you're ready to attach the two woods (photo C).

9. Cut the redheart piece to size with the jeweler's or scroll saw. With the half-round or round file, curve the base of the bail so it fits tight against the ebony ring while the backs remain flush. Remember to site the bail on a long-grain portion of the ring. End grain doesn't glue well.

10. Now sand both pieces except where they'll join. Start with 150-grit sandpaper, and sand with increasing grits until you have achieved the finish you desire. For now, you can leave the bail a little thicker than the ring where they meet. You'll sand that area flush after gluing them together.

DESIGNER TIP

If you have access to a drill press and a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (19 mm) Forstner bit, you can use them to cut the hole. Clamp across the grain with one or two small C-clamps to prevent the wood from splitting. Clean the hole with a file if needed.

11. Push the 3 mm silver tubing through the hole in the bail. It should fit pretty snugly. Use the pencil to mark the tubing where it extends past each side of the bail. Remove the tube, and use your jeweler's saw to cut where you marked. File and sand the ends of the tube so they're flush with the sides of the bail. Use a scribe or a nail to roughen the outer surface of the tubing. This provides a better mechanical joint when you glue metal with epoxy.

12. Following the manufacturer's instructions, mix a small amount of epoxy. Spread a very small amount inside one end of the hole in the bail and around the end of the tube. Push the tubing into the hole. Immediately wipe off the excess epoxy with a paper towel. When the glue has cured, sand the bail sides and the ends of the tube if necessary.

13. Sand or file the two pieces of wood to make a tight joint. Spread out the plastic sheet on your work surface. Mix a little epoxy, spread it on both pieces, and press them together with their backs flat on the plastic sheet. Hold the pieces together for about five minutes, and then leave them undisturbed for at least 30 minutes while the glue cures.

14. Use the narrow craft knife to trim the excess glue. Sand any remaining glue away, and sand the front of the bail flush with the ebony. Again, use progressively finer grits to make the wood shine.

15. Apply an oil finish, as described on page 24.

16. Make sure that the 20-gauge sterling silver wire fits into the half-drilled pearl. Use the #65 bit to drill a hole in the very bottom of the pendant, opposite the bail.

17. Thread the wire through the hole you just drilled.

18. Use epoxy to glue the pearl on the end of the wire inside the ring. Clean up any excess glue right away.

19. After the glue cures, lower the silver wire to site the pearl in the center of the ring. Lower the pearl a tiny bit, and use wire cutters to trim the wire flush with the bottom of the ebony ring. Raise the pearl past the center, and fill the bottom of the hole with epoxy. Then push the pearl down until it's centered again. To hide the hole, mix some ebony dust into the epoxy, and press it into the hole. You'll have to work quickly.

20. Hang the pendant from a commercially made neckwire, or create your own neckwire with 14-gauge sterling silver wire.



B

C

