



Statement Earrings

Use the tools from the January 2019 monthly
Potter Box to make these bold earrings.

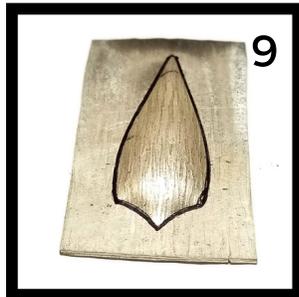
by Annie Pennington



Tools & Materials

- Pancake dies, silhouette die, and pattern plate from the January 2019 monthly Potter Box, "Make a Statement!"
- 20-gauge fine silver sheet; Sterling silver oval jump rings; Sterling silver earring post
- Hydraulic press; small urethane bits; cardboard
- Rolling mill (optional)
- Jeweler's saw with blade
- Flex shaft; small drill bit; snap-on sanding discs
- Flatnose pliers
- Files and assorted grits of abrasive paper
- Soldering setup with torch, flux, solder, pickle
- Liver of sulfur
- Pumice powder

Back view



How-to Instructions

1. Cut two Small Fans and two Large Decorative Drops out of full-hard, fine-silver sheet. Cut and anneal two pieces of silver approx. 1/4" larger on all sides than the Pointed Oval silhouette die. (If you use the plate to texture these pieces, we recommend starting with 18- or 20-gauge metal, as it will thin when it's textured.)

2. Use a rolling mill or hydraulic press and the Abstract Bark pattern plate to texture the metal before cutting. If using a press, use a small piece of urethane and press multiple times, moving the urethane slightly before each pressing.

3-4. Place the annealed silver textured-side down and centered on the silhouette die.

5-7. Center the silhouette die on the lower platen of your press, and use urethane or cardboard to form the metal into the die.

8. These are the three main components that make up each statement earring.

9. Use a fine-tip permanent marker to trace around the puffed form.

10. Use a jeweler's saw to cut out the puffed design, file and sand the edges. Place a piece of coarse abrasive paper on a flat surface, and sand the bottom edge of the puffed shape flat. This will ensure a good solder joint.

11. Place the puffed form on top of the back plate to determine its location.

12. Drill a hole in the back plate, and pierce a decorative opening, if desired. Finish the components as desired.

13. Apply flux to the flat edge of the puffed form, and sweat solder along the edge. Pickle if necessary,

14. Place a puffed design on a fluxed Large Decorative Drop. Evenly heat the drop until the solder on the flat edge of the puffed form re-flows.

15. Solder an earring post onto the back of each Small Fan.

16. Drill a hole at the narrowest point of the fan, and at the top point of the drop. Remove the burrs created from drilling.

Connect the fan and drop with a small, oval jump ring. Solder the ring closed, and pickle the completed earring to remove flux and oxidation.

Apply a patina, and use pumice powder to remove the patina from the high points and enhance the texture.

