

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH**TESTING FOR SILVER**

Often you need to identify some of those unknown “silvery” pieces of metal in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry that is not hallmarked. Is it silver or is it something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it’s best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It’s not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you’re on the right track. And it’s inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - apply a small drop and watch for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here’s the reaction I got when testing various materials:

Fine silver	Red/Orange
Sterling silver	Brick Red
80% silver 20% copper	Dark red changing to gray
Brass	Yellow changing to blue
Nickel	Gray-green
Copper	Yellow changing to blue
Steel	Black
Stainless Steel	No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

- ◆ Wear safety glasses.
- ◆ Do not get any testing solution on your skin.
- ◆ Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.
- ◆ Wash and clean up well when you’re done.

See More of my Smart Solutions for
Jewelry Making Series
<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

WIRE WRAP WITH NYKKY

By Sharon Marburger (photos by Jayne Beer and author)

The evening of August 14 found us around the classroom table at Hidden Gems, where those of us in attendance learned how to wire wrap/weave a spectrolite and copper cuff bracelet.

Of the 13 attendees, three had never attended a Nykky class before. They ended up with decent projects, proving that Nykky can teach to anyone.

At this time, the next class date and time have not been revealed to me, nor what the project will entail. Keep your eyes on the club Facebook page for upcoming information.



Three of the finished bracelets



More finished bracelets



Author’s project



Project by one of the new students

