

HOW TO MAKE AN AMULET NECKLACE

Amulets are used for protection, as a charm, and to fulfill wishes. Ex-votos or votive offerings or milagros (Spanish for miracle) are presented as gifts in gratitude for answered prayers or as a method of divine assistance. Amulets, milagros and ex-votos have been used by people from many cultures world-wide during rites of passage such as birth, marriage, pregnancy, baptism and adulthood. Their symbolism can be apparent, such as an arm representing physical strength, or hidden, when an envelope form is used to enclose a special prayer or request.

Amulets in Girard Collection, Museum of International Folk Art



Photo by Polina Smutko

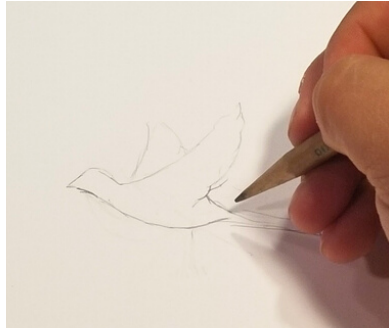
You'll need:

- Aluminum tooling foil 3" x 4"
- Craft foam 6" x 9"
- Pencil
- Scrap
- Paper
- Scissors
- String
- Beads
- Ballpoint pen



Procedures

1. Think about what you wish for, want protection from or want to give thanks for. What shape conveys that feeling? You can draw a body part, an object, a symbol or a shape that you like.



2. Sketch your idea first and when you are ready, draw on the aluminum.

3. Cut the shape out carefully with scissors.



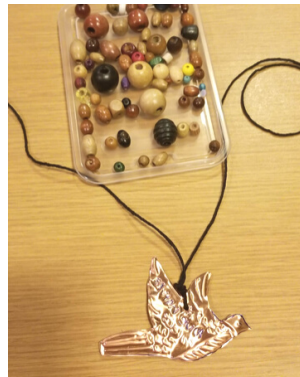
4. Flatten the aluminum by rolling the pen over the aluminum when it is resting on the foam.

5. Emboss designs on the amulet with the point of the pen. Make sure the foam is still underneath. You can write messages, make designs using different kinds of lines. Turn the amulet over and emboss from both sides?



6. Use pen tip to poke a hole in the amulet.

7. Thread the string through and then add beads. Use knots to separate the beads and add another decorative element if you like.



3. Tie the necklace around your neck or the neck of a friend or loved one.



Enjoy Good Luck!