

Botanical Arts - SarahBoynton.net

Botanical jewelry - designed and created from all dried plant material that may be artificially treated to resemble wearable jewelry in size and function. Made of botanical materials, such as peas, mustard seeds, cactus branches, orange rind and other natural plant life.

- No mechanics or structural base material may be visible.
- Should be accurately scaled and include realistic details like clasps and fasteners.
- Non-plant material (i.e. cardboard, metal, twine, string, cording, etc.) may be used only for construction and must not show.
- Entries are judged on design, craftsmanship, originality, interpretation of theme and distinction.
- Select plant material for shapes & textures that will support the design and structure of your creation.
- Treatment of plant material: Paint, lacquer, and gloss finishes should be carefully applied in thin coats.
- Permitted: Dried flowers, foliage, seeds, pods, peas, beans, corn, corn husk, nuts (in or out of shells), grapevine twigs, basket reeds, etc. Many things can be found in the spice aisle, (allspice, mustard seeds, coriander seeds) especially in bulk foods, others right in your back yard. Many perennials have interesting dried pods after blooming, ex: trumpet vine, wisteria seeds & pods. Bark, lichen, samaras, tulip poplar, acorns, ash seeds, hickory nut.
- Not permitted: artificial, endangered, and locally invasive plant material may not be used. Wood or any other plant material may not be carved into figural forms; such forms must be assembled. Any material may be cut, incised or shaped to enhance artistic effect.

Tips

- Start by looking over your schedule, plan the size of your piece as it will look in space and come up with a design that is the appropriate size. Study real jewelry for design inspiration.
- Keep in mind the principles and elements of design, craftsmanship and originality when creating. Keep a card with samples of the dried material you used for future reference.
- When there is a curve to your design, it is best to apply the plant material directly on the curved base rather than on a flat surface otherwise there will be large gaps between.
- If you want to design with a pave´ style, you can add glue to build up an area where the material is smaller (glue gun glue works well for this).
- You can reinforce your piece with netting or screen mesh on the back as long as it does not show.
- Cover your material with something to make it smooth and then apply your paint. You can always go back and apply gel and re-coat with paint as needed.

- To preserve the size and shape of your material, try using the silica gel and/or microwave dry (<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cook/downloads/9206.pdf>) Seal with something to keep it from absorbing moisture before you paint it. Paint delicate items with the self leveling gel or epoxy to make them more durable and flexible.
- If you need several pieces to line up (such as the Flamenco fan spokes) make a templet and use it to mark with a sharpie and *then* drill so they all match.

HAVE FUN and don't be afraid to try something new!!!

Supplies

Golden Self Leveling Clear Gel

Great for smoothing out rough surfaces. Generously apply and allow to dry before painting. Can be mixed with paint powders. **Can not** be sanded.

Liquid Leaf/Gold Leaf

Liquid Leaf gives any project a rich metallic luster. Just brush on Liquid Leaf for glimmering shimmering highlights. **Drawback** - you can't touch it too much or the finish will dull and the color will change if any other paint or glue touches it. Liquid leaf pens can help with touch ups.

Glue - There are several different kinds of glue. Fast grab tacky glue is handy because it is strong and works fast. Crazy glue with a brush applicator is very convenient. Always test paint on glue to make sure it doesn't "react" **West Systems G/5 Adhesive** An easy to use, 2-part resin/hardener. Cures in 3-5 minutes. Great for oily material to help seal before painting.

Use a Dremel or small drill for cutting, drilling and sanding small items. A drill press will help with drilling tiny holes in small material such as peas and lentils. To make tight raffia rope, use a little white glue mixed with water and drill to spin it tight. Tape both ends to a surface and allow to dry before you use.

A "Third Hand" with tweezers helps hold items while you glue/paint.

UV activated Glue-

Glue is as thin as super glues but will not cure until you shine a UV light on it. Light usually comes with glue. Many different brands, available on line (Amazon has several brands)

Sandpaper- High grit paper is very useful (500-2000 grit) The higher the number, the finer the paper. You can find ultra fine sandpaper at automotive supply stores

Oasis flat cane and Midollino sticks - These two Oasis products are very useful!

For more detailed information including photos, please visit my website where you can download handouts and use links to the supplies I use.

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