

#Mindfulness

Dawn Vizzi-DiGesare

What is a hashtag? A hashtag is the pound sign that comes before the word or string of words that you want to identify. A hashtag is a digital filing system that is used on social networks.

Pick your word. My word for this year is mindfulness. I felt that last year I was too laser focused on work, work work. So when the holiday rush was over and I had time to reflect I realized that I was not taking the enough time to enjoy the simple things in life and it's simple pleasures.

My jewelry specialties are using hand written signatures, simple works of art and meaningful words. I make amazing jewelry from them.

Materials I used for this project:

10 grams of metal clay of choice
roller
template with shapes
cards or slats
mat to work on
cup warmer (candle warmer)
jar to keep clay fresh
distilled water
olive oil or metal clay release
small baggie or piece of plastic

needle tool
razor blade
coffee stir sticks for the hole
piece of paper for sanding on
sand paper (wet dry 400 and 800 grit)
polishing papers (1200 and 4000 grit)
black max
foredom portable flex shaft (optional)
#mindfulness stamp
approximately 1 yard of 1mm waxed
cotton

Here is my process:

1. For this bracelet use 2 to 4 cards for the thickness. Place olive oil or release agent lightly on your work surface, roller and even hands. roll the clay out until you are sure that the clay is evenly distributed (you will know this when the clay stops growing).
2. Lightly oil or use the release on your stamp. Then press the stamp into the clay. Make sure you are happy with the way your stamp marked the clay. If you aren't happy with your results pick up the clay and start back to step one.
3. Place your shape template over your word.
4. Using your needle tool straight up cut your shape out.
5. Check your piece if you are happy with it continue to 6. If not Start over on 1 again.
6. Take your coffee stir and make holes on each end. This size hole is significant enough to fit the cord through once the piece is fired.
7. Now your piece is ready to sand. I use sand paper first, wet dry 400 and 800 grit and then polishing papers 1200 and 4000 grit. I love to make sure my piece is exactly the way I want it. You may think that my sanding techniques are too much.
8. Fire your finished piece and then add patina and polish to your liking. .
9. Adding the cotton cord: Take the waxed cotton cord and cut 3 pieces about 12 inches. Once you have made one you can adjust the lengths of the cord to suit your needs. I like to start with 12 inches.
10. Instructions for attaching the cord are here in the video (<https://vimeo.com/282062029>). Please use the passcode mctmag to watch the video.



Come join me for the next round of
Signature Tags with daVoria



This 3 week online course teaches my techniques to make the most beautiful, personalized keepsake jewelry.



For more information email me
Dawn at davoriajewelry@gmail.com
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About Dawn Vizzi DiGesare

I started working with metal clay about 9 years ago, because no one in my community was working with this medium; I am mostly self taught, so through trial and error (and a lot of reading), I was able to excel at the craft.

The first time I worked with metal clay I knew I was hooked. Buying bought my kiln immediately afterwards. I started making simple pieces by playing with shapes and exploring textures. My jewelry pieces were looking really cool but had no real purpose.

I knew I wanted to build a jewelry business to keep myself busy when I was ready for retirement. I just had to figure out how to start. I found Flourish & Thrive Academy to help me become more savvy on the business side. Throughout the first year, F&TA kept talking about having a purpose driven jewelry business. I kept racking my brain, what do they mean? I wanted jewelry that would make people feel good. How can I do that? WORDS! That's it! And I began my search for the perfect stamps.

Finding a stamp making kit to make meaningful words that would elicited emotions was what I needed to get this great idea out into the world. Not being tech savvy, it took me a while to find the right technique of transferring the signature to make a signature stamp. Using my own mother's signature propelled my business to a new level! This will be my 5th holiday season making these wonderful pieces. Over the years I've been asked to share my process. I had been teaching in my community for over 6 years and thought I should try it online. Last year, I launched a three week online course called Making Signature Tags with daVoria. I am also available to teach one on one through Skype.

You can view my work at www.davoria.com, or Find me on Instagram @davoria.jewelry, Facebook is daVoria jewelry and Twitter @jewelrypreneur. If you'd like to know more about my course Making Signature Tags with daVoria you can sign up for my email list here or feel free to email me at davoriajewelry@gmail.com with any questions.

