

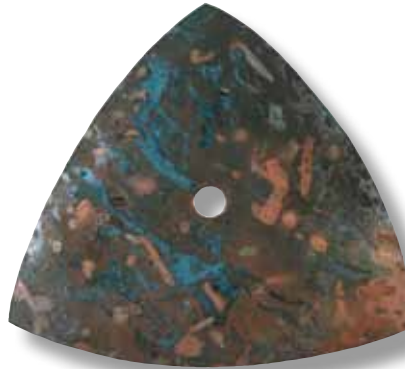
Patina Basics

Safe Color Solutions for Metalsmiths

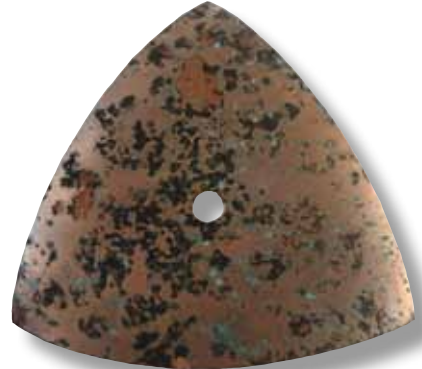
Buried Patinas



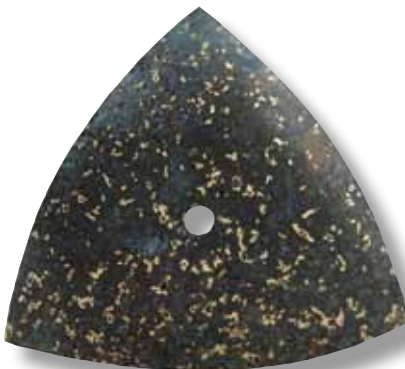
Ammonia / vinegar in pine sawdust on copper.



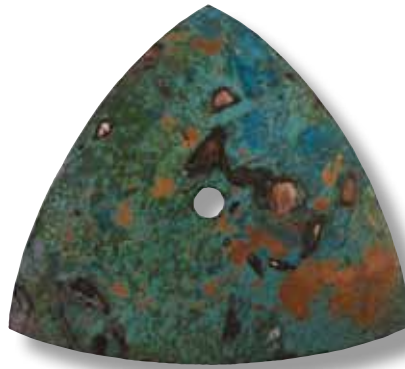
Commercial green solution in coarse wood chips on copper.



Ammonia / vinegar in coffee grounds on copper.



Commercial green solution in pine sawdust on brass.



Commercial green solution in large sawdust on copper.



Ammonia / vinegar in shredded paper on copper.

Process

Saturate a disposable porous media with a coloring agent so that the material clumps together when squeezed. Insert clean metal and seal the container. Allow the work to sit, covered, typically for 12–36 hours.

Recipes

Almost any coloring solution is worth a try. These samples were made with an ammonia/vinegar solution or with commercial green patina.

Media

As demonstrated here, the range of media is almost endless. Subtle variations such as the type of sawdust used (e.g., pine versus maple) can yield interesting results.