

# Mermaid Song Bracelet

Use silver metal clay, pearls and seaglass to create this beautiful bracelet fit for a mermaid.

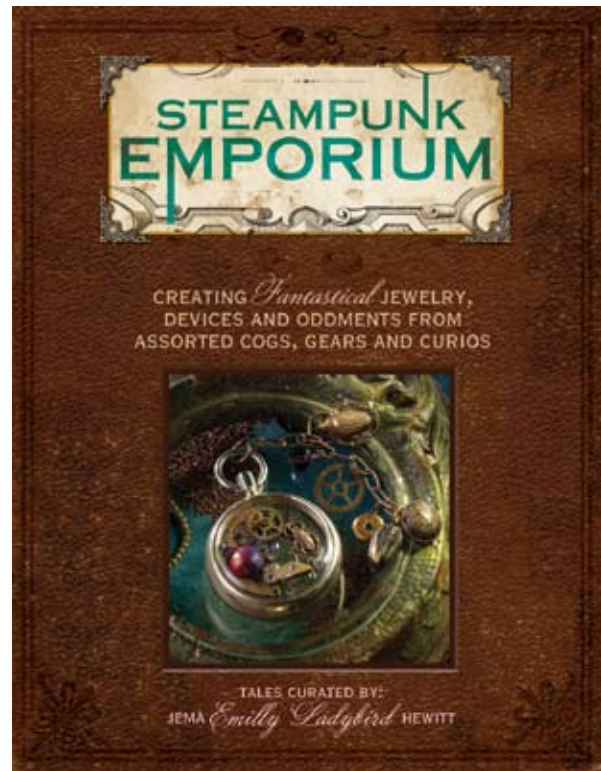
In *Steampunk Emporium*, Jema "Emilly Ladybird" Hewitt explores Steampunk with 20 whimsical jewelry designs, using myriad mediums and supplies, that each embody one of five fantastical worlds. For this project, break out the metal clay and sea glass to create an elegant bracelet.

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To learn more about or purchase *Steampunk Emporium* by Jema Hewitt, [click here](#).

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## *Mermaid Song Bracelet*

NO ONE WHO HAS HEARD THE SIREN SONG OF THE MERMAID CAN EVER FORGET IT. A sweet lullaby seeping across the waves, it has been known to drive men mad and wreck ships. But now some spectacular attempts have been made to save our ships from this natural disaster, most notably by the East India Shipping Company.

They have funded extensive research into neutralizing the song. One experiment involved recording the noise onto a wax cylinder and then playing back the exact opposite frequency, thus counteracting each noise. But most success has been had by finding objects that resonated at similar harmonics, creating a small force field around the individual. It is to this last group that this elegant bracelet belongs.

It has been field-tested extensively by the Petrides expedition, which also collected a large number of objects from the sea floor with similar resonating properties; they have generously donated these to the research department on Ulysses Three.

From Steampunk Emporium by Jema Hewitt. Courtesy of CreateMixedMedia.com.

## INQUIRE WITHIN

*Playing cards aren't just for a rousing game of whist! They can help you roll out the clay to an even thickness without employing rulers or other measuring devices.*

*If the clay is a bit sticky, rub the surface with a tiny bit of Badger Balm or olive oil as a release agent before stamping.*

### SUPPLIES

30g slow-dry Art Clay Silver 650

Small watch pieces and cogs (optional)

Liver of sulphur (optional)

0.4mm silver plated wire (patinated if you like)

4 similar-sized pieces of sea glass, approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.5cm) long

2 twisted cog disks in white bronze (from Objects and Elements)

4 5mm oval white pearls

2 4mm pale blue rice crispy pearls

20 5mm silver jump rings (patinated if you like)

20 4mm silver jump rings (patinated if you like)

2  $\frac{3}{4}$ "  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (7cm 1.5cm)

3-to-1 necklace connectors

4 silver shell charms

### EQUIPMENT

6 playing cards

Sticky tape or glue

Wax paper

Acrylic roller

Rubber stamp (small intricate patterns work best; I used "Ink and the Dog" clock stamp C2)

Tissue blade

Cocktail stick

Needle files

Fine sandpaper

Blowtorch or kiln for firing silver clay

Wire brush

Sanding pads

Wire cutters

Round-nose pliers



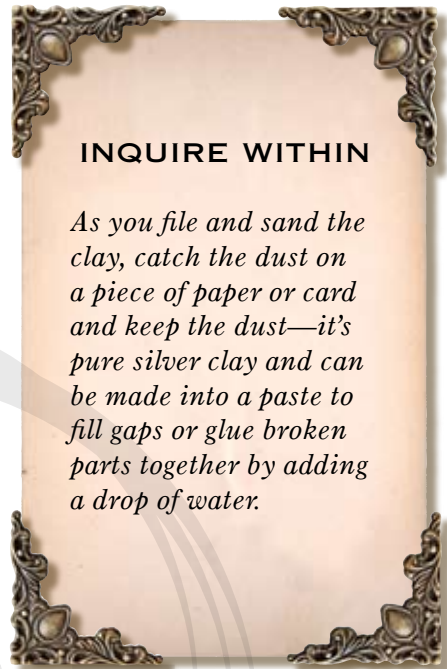
*Step 1* Make 2 stacks of 3 cards each, securing the cards together with glue or sticky tape. On the wax paper, place the stacks about 3" (7cm) apart. Place the clay between the stacks and roll it out, resting the sides of the roller on the playing cards. (The clay will dry out fast, so work swiftly, and make sure you have room to cut three  $1\frac{1}{2}$ "  $\times$   $\frac{3}{4}$ " [4cm  $\times$  2cm] rectangles.)

*Step 2* Stamp the clay with the rubber stamp; you need to impress the design firmly. You can further embellish the clay by pressing small watch pieces and cogs into it.



*Step 3* Using the tissue blade, cut out three 1½" × ¾" (4cm × 2cm) rectangles. Use the cocktail stick to make 6 holes in each piece, 3 holes on each side. Make the holes larger than the 5mm jump rings, as the clay can shrink up to 25 percent during firing; the width of the cocktail stick is usually sufficient.

Set the clay pieces aside to dry overnight.



### INQUIRE WITHIN

*As you file and sand the clay, catch the dust on a piece of paper or card and keep the dust—it's pure silver clay and can be made into a paste to fill gaps or glue broken parts together by adding a drop of water.*



*Step 4* Neaten the rough edges and holes in the clay by rubbing with needle files and sandpaper. Take care with the dry clay; it seems hard but is quite brittle.



*Step 5* Fire the clay according to the manufacturer's instructions. Make sure you use the appropriate method for your type of clay. Some clays need a kiln, and others can be fired by a blowtorch.

After cooling, rub off all the white clay deposit with a wire brush to reveal the silver underneath. Polish thoroughly using either sanding pads or a jewelry tumbler filled with steel shot.



*Step 6* To show the design in greater detail, you can patina it, if desired, with the liver of sulphur. Please observe all the manufacturer's safety precautions and instructions.



*Step 7* Cut a 12" (30.5cm) piece of 0.4mm wire. Create a wrapped loop at one end (see Wrapped Loop on page 113). Hold the sea glass close to the loop and wrap the wire around it once. Secure by wrapping around the loop once, and continue around the sea glass to the opposite end. Make another wrapped loop there, and continue to wrap the whole piece in wire both vertically and horizontally, using the loops as securing points. Repeat with all the sea-glass pieces.



*Step 8* Cut a 6" (15cm) piece of wire and wrap one end very tightly around the edge of a twisted cog. Wrap the small end around the long wire to finish. Create a wrapped loop with the long end. Keep it small and neat, and trim any excess wire. Do this on each side of each cog.

Create wrapped loops on either side of the 6 pearls, making 6 separate components.



*Step 9* Use the jump rings to assemble the bracelet. Depending on the length of different components, you may have to add extra jump rings to make the shorter pieces match the longer ones. You can see I added extra jump rings next to my white pearls, and also next to the cogs, to make them the same length as the sea glass. Finally, attach a clasp and the shell charms with jump rings, too.