

Galena Mirror Instructions

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Galena mirrors are dark – the color of polished hematite or the lead in a “lead” pencil. Looking at a galena mirror is like wearing sunglasses; the colors and reflections are perfect but dark. Our Mirroring Kits include samples of Galena mirroring on flat and textured glass.

The mirroring process is the same for all metals. These instructions assume that you know how to make a silver mirror. All of our instructions are available on our website. The Galena Mirror Checklist outlines the steps to follow to make a galena mirror.

Galena mirrors differ from silver mirrors in 2 ways:

- 1) Use Tin for Gold instead of Tin for Silver to sensitize the glass.
- 2) Use Palladium Sensitizer over Tin for Gold to super-sensitize it.

Mix Tin for Gold

- 1) Use the 10 ml cylinder to measure out **3 ml** of concentrated Tin for Gold. Pour it into the 16 oz measuring cup and add **16 fluid ounces** of steam distilled water. You may have more diluted Tin for Gold than you need, but you will have the right ratio of Tin to water.
- 2) Diluted Tin for Gold has a shelf life of 6 to 8 hours. Mix fresh daily.

Mix Palladium Sensitizer

- 1) Use the 10 ml cylinder to measure out **2 ml** of concentrated Palladium Sensitizer per square foot of glass. Pour it into a measuring cup and add **2 fluid ounces** of steam distilled water per square foot of glass. This is the same mixing ratio as Tin for Silver
- 2) Diluted Palladium Sensitizer has a shelf life of 6 to 8 hours. Mix fresh daily.

Notes:

- Use **15 ml each** of the 3 Galena chemicals per square foot of glass (45 ml total).
- Mix the chemicals in plastic or glass containers. Do NOT use paper cups.

Galena Mirror Checklist

- 1) Set out the chemicals, tub, rack, cleaning mat and glass.
- 2) Mix the Tin for Gold as directed.
- 3) In a separate cup, mix the Palladium Sensitizer as directed.
- 4) Clean the glass with glass cleaner and hot water.
- 5) Polish flat and 3-D glass with hot, wet cerium oxide and glass cleaner.
- 6) Remove the cerium oxide with a sponge, brush or paper towel.
- 7) Rinse it again with distilled water and tip all the water off.
- 8) Pour on at least **2 fluid ounces** of diluted Tin for Gold per square foot.
- 9) Let the tin sit for about 30 seconds. Rinse the glass and tip the water off.
- 10) Pour on at least **2 fluid ounces** of diluted Palladium Sensitizer per square foot.
- 11) Let the Palladium Sensitizer sit for about 30 seconds. Rinse and tip again.
- 12) Measure out **15 ml** of each Galena chemical per square foot of glass.
- 13) Pour the Galena chemicals into a clean glass or plastic cup.
- 14) Pour them into another cup to mix them. Pour back and forth 2 – 3 times.
- 15) Pour the mixed chemicals on the glass.
- 16) Rock the glass gently to get an even distribution.
- 17) Let the Galena sit while it deposits on the glass – about **10 – 15 minutes**.
- 18) Rock the glass gently every few minutes to get an even deposition.
- 19) Pour off the chemicals into your chemical waste bucket – not down the drain.
- 20) Rinse the mirror well with distilled water.
- 21) Stand the mirror on edge to dry.
- 22) When it is dry, back it with backing paint and let that dry completely.
- 23) Clean the face of the mirror with Galena Remover and pumice.
- 24) Stand back and admire your handiwork. Galena mirrors are unusual and elegant.

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