



<http://gastineau-studio.myshopify.com/>

Creating cast pewter jewelry



Cast Pewter Jewelry

- Casting pewter jewelry is a multi-step process. Ken Gastineau combines ancient techniques with modern technology to produce his unique line of striking and affordable jewelry.



It begins with design.

Sometimes Gastineau begins by drawing and sometimes he designs directly on the computer drawing tablet. He uses two different software programs (Computer Assisted Design and Z-Brush) to create a 3-D rendition of his design.





Then he creates the *master model*.

Gastineau utilizes a CNC milling machine (a digitally automated machine) to produce a prototype in a special kind of wax.



Next, he creates a *master mold* from the wax models.

A master mold is used to reproduce several different designs or similar designs of different sizes.



Molten Pewter

- When the mold is ready to use, he puts it into the centrifuge (the spin caster) and clamps the lid in place. The hole in the spin caster matches exactly with the hole in the mold. Next to the spin caster is a melting pot full of molten pewter (heated to 550°). He carefully pours a dipper of molten pewter into the mold and turns the centrifuge on.



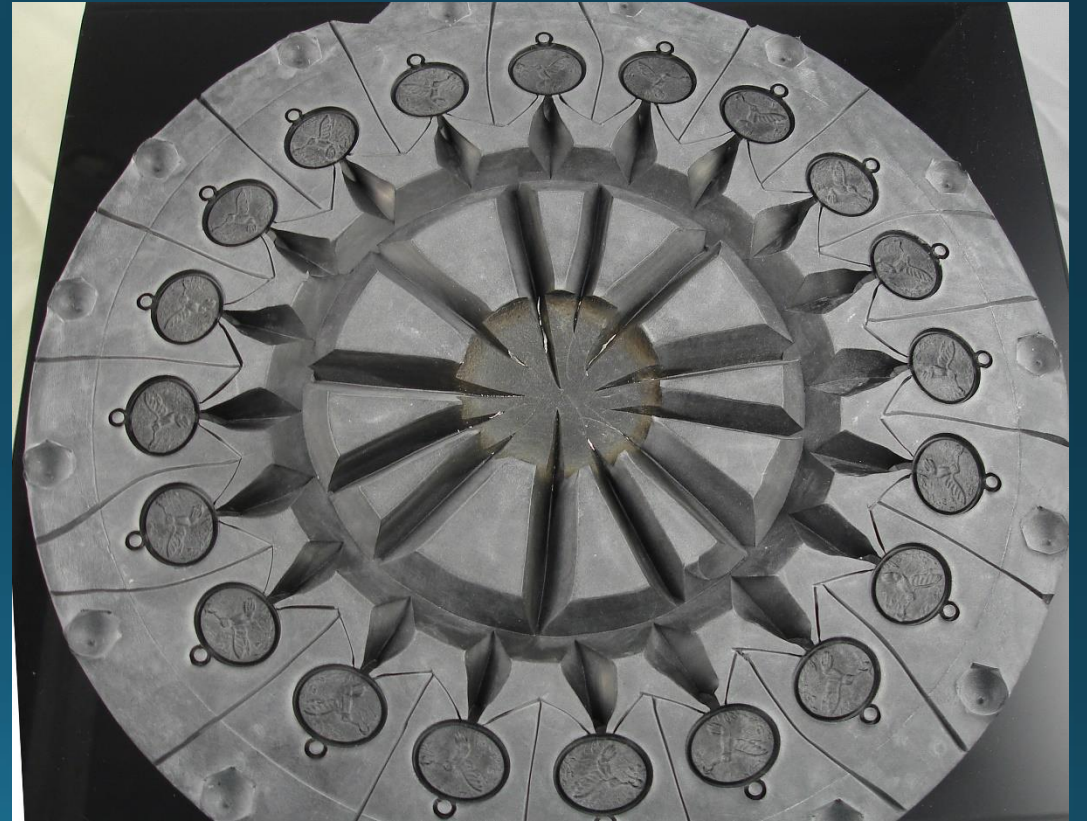
Secondary Models

Secondary models are pewter prototypes. Gastineau does enough castings from the master mold to be able to make a production mold (4-20 castings).



Production Mold

Using the secondary models, he makes a *production mold* with all the designs either identical or for the same set (i.e. pendant and earrings).



Production Molds





Production Run

Then he casts a production run and remove the pieces from the mold.



Finishing

He grinds off any sharp edges and tumbles the pieces in an oxidizing tumbler (like a rock tumbler) to remove any burrs and give the pewter a satin finish.



Finished Piece

Once a pendant is created, it can be the centerpiece of a bracelet or necklace.



Smaller pieces can be combined as charm bracelets.



Or made into key rings or earrings



Gastineau Studios produces cast napkin holders, Christmas ornaments, and other items in addition to jewelry.



Gastineau Studio also creates pewter hollow ware like mint julep cups as well as cast pewter.

