



## **‘BIG RINGS’ QUICK & EASY NECKLACE PROJECT**

I've always loved the Vintaj Patina range. They are extremely versatile across many mediums, come in fabulous colours (which are blendable) and easy to use.

Not sure what I'm talking about?

Vintaj Patinas are opaque inks that have been specially formulated by Ranger to adhere to metal.

They create beautiful and durable (they are permanent) patina effects.

Vintaj Patinas can not only be used on metal but also on polymer clay, leather, mixed media, ceramic, papers etc.

They are fast drying (to a satin finish), contain no acid and are UV safe. You can set them with a heat tool to dry them faster and to obtain an even more durable finish.

You can also thin them out with the extender or create a gloss finish with the glaze.

One of my favourite things to do with Vintaj Patina's is to layer them up using a sponge which is exactly what I'm going to show you today.

This week I received a shipment of findings and these large metal alloy rings were a part of it. They are around 50mm in size, lead and nickel free and are just perfect for colouring with Vintaj Patinas.



I created this necklace in only a few steps and not much time at all.  
I'll show you how and I'll also explain a few ways you can vary this design  
along the way too!



Firstly, gather your supplies. If you were lucky enough to get a kit from our store, you'll have everything you need in there with the exception of the Vintaj Patina so that you can either use what you have at home or purchase the colours that appeal to you.

Otherwise, you'll need;

- 5 x Antique Bronze Large Rings  
(you could use more if you like. I like to use an odd number but it's really up to you);
- Jumprings  
I have used 6mm, and 6 of them, but you could also use 8mm or 10mm. The larger you go, the more space you'll have between the big rings;
- Chain  
I have used 50cm of antique bronze alloy chain. You could use a shorter length and add a clasp or a longer chain for a lengthier necklace. Again, up to you;
- Vintaj Patinas in your choice of colour.  
I have used the 'Weathered Copper' set which has 3 great greeny colours;
- A sea sponge or similar.  
You could also use just a kitchen sponge, dishcloth, scrap of material - so many choices;
- Sandpaper  
I have used 400 kit (this is also what is in the kits I made up);
- Pliers for opening jumprings  
I have used two pairs of chainnose pliers;
- *Optional:* You might like to get your heat gun or embossing tool out if you have one but this is not essential.



**\*\* NOTE:** Depending on the metal you are applying the patina to, it can be a good idea to give your piece a light sand before applying any patina. This cleans the piece up and gives you a surface that the patina will adhere easily to. This is optional but it is a good idea. If you find your patina is not sticking to your metal pieces (rarely this will happen but good to keep in mind), you may need to prep the surface with a light sand beforehand.

Place your large metal rings on a piece of scrap paper. I have used white paper instead of something like newspaper so that the print doesn't come off on my pieces.

Shake your patina bottles. You will hear a little metal ball shaking around in there - this will mix up all of your paint inside!

Squeeze out a little of each of your patina colours.

You can use a paint palette if you like but I've just put some on the scrap paper. Be sure to move your bottles out of the way or you'll end up with patina all over them just like mine!!



Dab your sponge into the patina and dab onto the metal ring/s. You can do this one colour at a time, layering up as you go, or you may wish to layer the colour directly onto the sponge, dabbing the sponge into each colour all at once. The choice is yours. Play around with different effects. You can practice on the paper until you get the effect you want.

You can paint the back of your rings or not - again it's up to you.



At this point, you need to leave your metal rings to dry. This can vary in time depending on how hot/humid the weather is.

You can speed up the process by drying with a heat/embossing gun/tool. This can also make the patina more durable in the long term.

It is a good idea to leave your patina overnight for it to set properly.

Once the patina is set, you can now choose whether or not you would like to sand the surface back a little to re-expose the metal. You can see in the photo the different between the two finishes (the one on the left is sanded the ones on the right have not been). Again, this is your choice. If you do choose to give them a sand, start lightly (I used 400 grit with a light touch). If you do happen to take too much off, you can always reapply your patina!



Give your rings a quick wipe on a dry, soft cloth to remove any dust (from sanding). You're now ready to assemble them together.

Take your jumprings and open them all. Pick up one large metal ring and put a jumpring through one of the small holes, add another large metal ring and then close your jumpring.

Repeat with the other jumprings and large metal rings until they are all joined together. Add a jumpring to each of the end large metal rings and attach your chain to these rings before closing them.



That's it! You're all done. Too easy right?!

(If you scroll back up through this little tutorial you'll see the photo of the finished piece).

Of course you can always play around with adding extra 'bits' to your piece. These rings lend themselves very well to being riveted (cold connected) so you can rivet things to them. You can also cover sections of them in polymer clay or epoxy clay. Or even wire wrap them! So many options.

Don't forget, these Vintaj patinas also work well to colour bezels and settings - you just repeat the same process as for these rings.

Have fun!

Don't forget if you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'd also love to see what you create so feel free to send through your photos to me!

Happy Creating!

- Dani