

# How to Make CounterName! for Copper

## By Pam East

In 2020 I made the decision to discontinue production of CounterName!. I know a lot of people liked it, so here are free instructions on how to make it.

### WHAT IS COUNTER-ENAMELING AND WHY DO I NEED IT?

Enamels put stress on the metal, causing it to warp slightly, which can result in cracks or chips. Putting enamel on the back side of the piece equalizes the stress and no cracking should occur.

For fine silver regular enamel can be used on the backside and fired first, and then the front can be enameled. No special products are needed.

For copper, however; enamel should be applied to both the front and back of the piece at the same time to avoid having to deal with fire scale. This can be tricky with traditional enameling methods. The enamel tended to drop off the back of the piece, even with the generous use of enamel adhesives such as Klyr-Fire. Making CounterName!, which dries very hard, can make this process a snap!

### WHAT IS CounterName!?

CounterName! is a mix of Thompson lead-free powdered Liquid Form Brushable Enamels (LCE) and regular Thompson 80 mesh enamel. The unique formula creates a layer of enamel that is hard and secure both before and after firing. CounterName! takes all the fuss and bother out of applying and firing counter-enamel. Simply add water and it's ready to use.

### Making CounterName!

Combine equal parts dry LCE and Enamel by WEIGHT. Mix very well. Store dry in a jar with a tight lid and it will be ready to use whenever you need it.

Because of the nature of LCE, you can not make this product transparent. The best you can do is semi-clear. Opaques work the best. Try to match the color of the LCE and the enamel closely, or the finished result will look speckled.

These are combinations that work well.

LCE-1 & 1995 Black

LCE-2 & 2020 Clear (makes semi-clear)

LCE-3 & 1020 Titanium White

LCE-4 & 1360 Jungle Green

LCE-7 & 1685 Cobalt Blue

## DIRECTIONS FOR MIXING AND USE

### Tools & Supplies

CounterNameI  
PREnameI or other metal cleaner  
Inexpensive toothbrush  
Distilled Water  
Small condiment cup  
Enamel spatula  
Plastic pipette or eye-dropper  
Vinyl or latex gloves  
Small brush

When handing your piece, always hold it by the edges and avoid touching any of the areas to be enameled with your bare fingers. Finger oils, dust, soaps and other contaminants can prevent enamels from adhering correctly.

1. Put on a pair of vinyl or latex gloves. Clean your copper piece thoroughly with PreNameI™ or your preferred metal cleaner and a nylon brush. Rinse well, removing all traces of cleaning agent. Water should sheet on the surface, not bead up. If the water pulls from the edges or beads up, clean the piece again.
2. Place your piece face down in a trivet.
3. Place a small amount of CounterNameI in a small mixing cup. Mix up only as much as you will need for your project.
4. Add distilled water a few drops at a time, mixing as you go along. The enamel paste should be wet enough to lay down smoothly on your piece and should stay where you put it. If it runs or pools it is too thin. Add a bit more CounterNameI powder. If it does not lay smoothly it may be too thick. Add a drop or two more water.
5. Apply an even coat of CounterNameI approximately .5 mm thick to the back of your piece. The CounterNameI should reach all the way to the edges of the piece and should not pull away in any areas. If it does pull or bead, re-clean the piece and try again.
6. Place the trivet with the piece on top of a hot kiln to dry. Drying takes about 20 minutes. Once it is dry, the CounterNameI will have a hard, cement-like consistency. It will not move or fall off, even if the piece is knocked or tapped.
7. Place your piece face up in the trivet and apply enamels as you normally would.
8. Fire your enamels as recommended for the enamels on the front of the piece. The CounterNameI will fuse during this process, creating a smooth, attractive back for your work.

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