

Violet Evergarden Brooch & Pin



Ծաղկաղ Եւրգարտի
Բրուչիւն Ծաղկաղ
Բրուչիւն Եւրգարտի

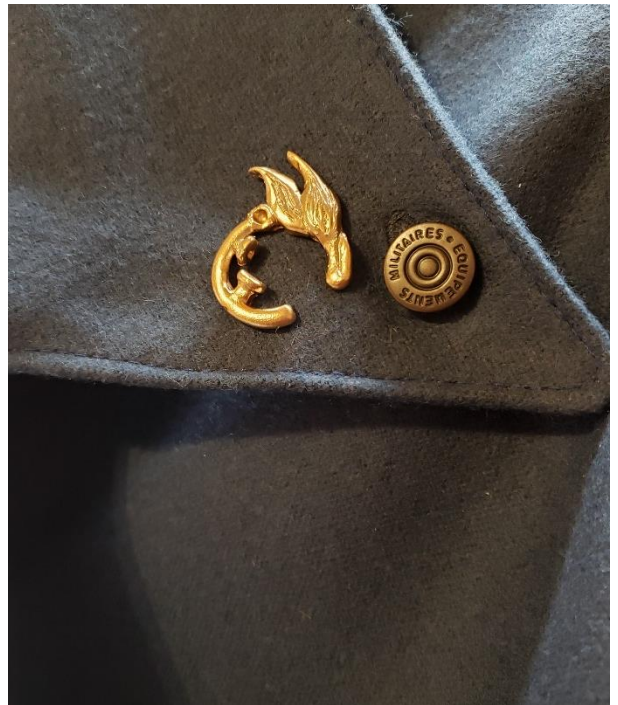
Introduction



This tutorial will covers the high level steps needed to create Violet Evergarden's brooch and pin, as seen in the anime.

This tutorial covers:

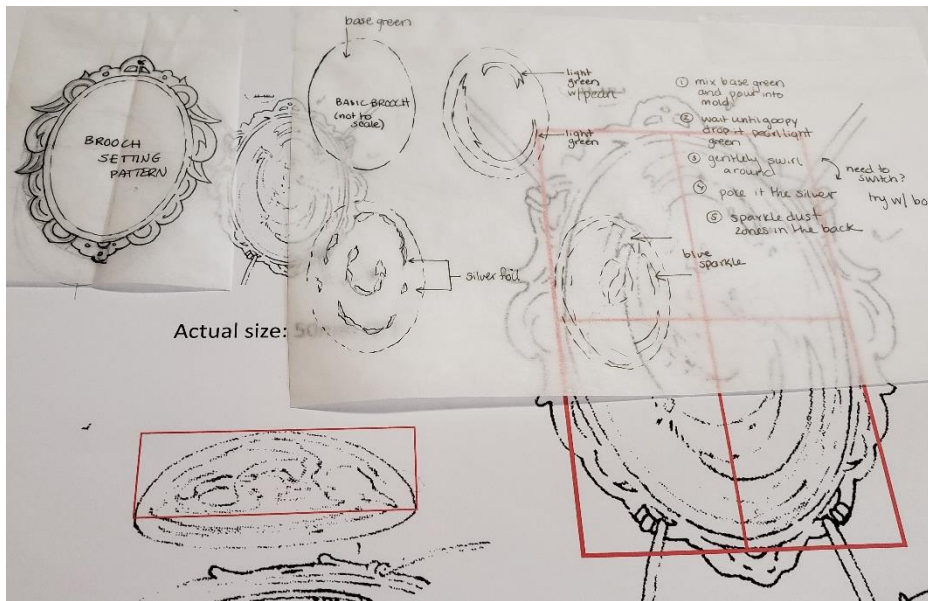
- Sculpting with clay and sculpting tools
- Making molds with 2-part silicone
- Resin casting with 2-part epoxy resin, dye, and sparkle
- Sanding, polishing, and painting for a smooth finish



Making the sculpt

For the brooch and pin, I needed to create (3) sculpts: the GEM, the FINDING, and the PIN.

Collect reference pictures. A lot of them. You'll need to determine the size and shape of your accessories. I have small hands with stubby fingers. I wanted to make sure I could pose with the brooch and that the pin looked proportional to how it appears in the anime.



Start sculpting using the patterns as a baseline.

I used a combination of metal and silicone-tipped tools to carefully remove excess clay and to keep it as smooth as possible.

Bake the clay in the oven per instructions on the box of clay.

If you are using a non-bake clay, then you can skip that step.

At this point, you are ready to start making the silicone molds that you'll use to cast the resin shapes.

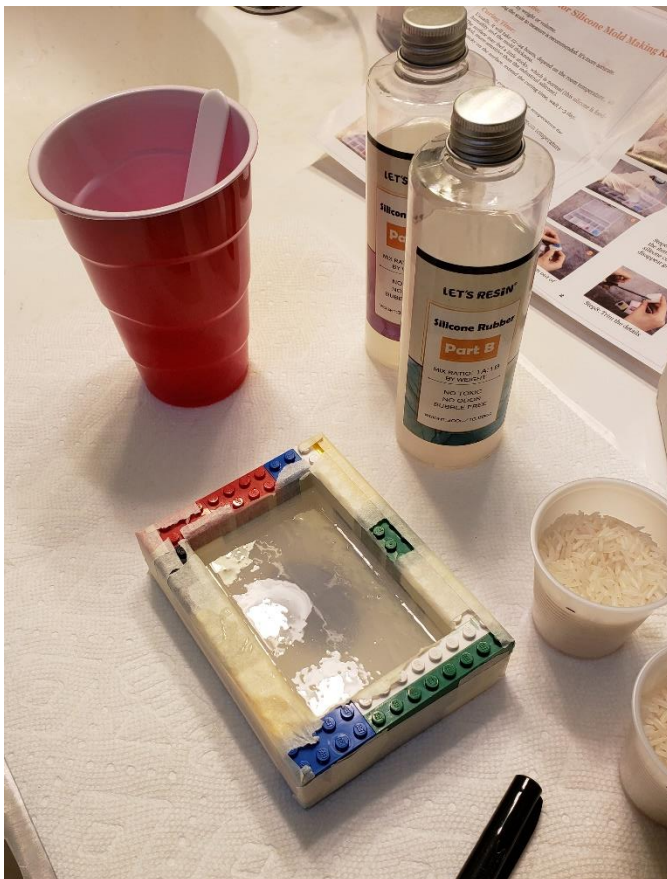


My GEM sculpt was a shape I created in some free 3D modeling software online. I printed it with a PLA printer, then used auto-scratch filler and primer to smooth it down completely.

The FINDING for the brooch and the PIN were sculpted from clay and baked.



Making the mold

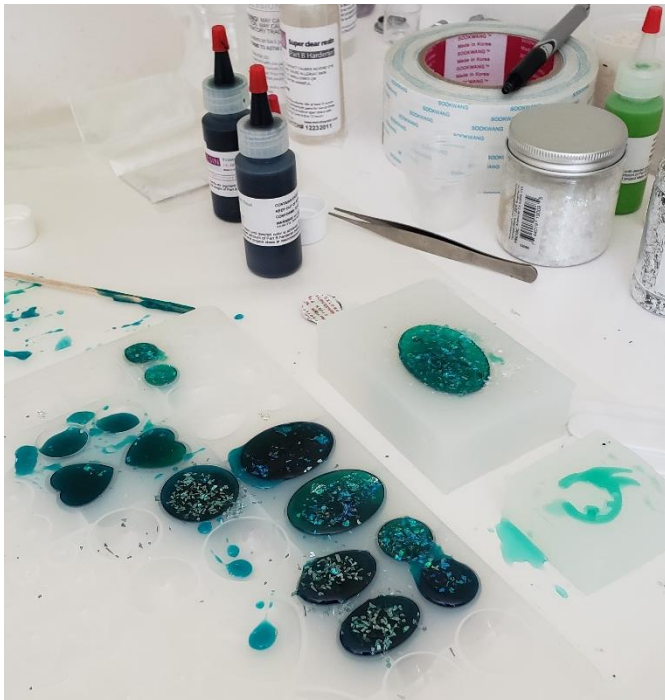


My approach for making single-sided molds is:

1. Build a frame out of generic Lego bricks.
2. Tape wax paper to the bottom, folding it up and sealing all the edges with masking tape.
3. Place the item on the bottom with a tiny amount of double-stick tape to prevent it from moving.
4. Pour rice into the container to determine how much silicone or rubber you need to make.
5. Most of the silicone and rubber I've encountered uses a 1:1 ratio of part A to part B. So I divide the rice into 2 cups.
6. I mark the levels on the plastic cups. This will be my pouring line for part A (one cup) and part B (another cup).
7. I mix them together in a bigger cup (see red plastic cup) for the recommended time.
8. Carefully pour the mixed silicone or rubber on top of the item, letting it slide down the sides, to slowly fill the container.
9. Let it cure for longer than you expect it will need.



Casting the resin



I cast the brooch GEM, FINDING, and PIN out of resin. For this, I followed the instructions on the resin that I bought.

I made sure to use tint/dye that was intended for that specific type and brand of resin.

To give the brooch more dimension, I also wanted to try sparkles.

Rather than cast the big gem too many times, I experimented with some smaller, pre-made molds until I got a color and glitter density I liked.

This also helps if some of the casts don't come out properly: I have multiple options to pick from!



Smoothing and Polishing

All of the resin casts came out with a bit of unintended texture, so I started sanding them.

To sand resin, start with something fairly course, like 200 and then gradually work your way up: 400, 800, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10000.

Each time I was wet sanding and gently going in circles to help smooth out the surface.

For the GEM, the last stage was to use a multi-part polish designed to fill in scratches and then apply a glossy cover.

For the PIN and the FINDING, the last stage was to spray several thin coats of an ultra reflective gold paint.



Finishing touches



Unfortunately, I don't have any work in progress shots from this, but there were a few final steps to finishing the pieces:

1. Glue the gem onto the brooch finding.
2. Glue a big flat-backed pin onto the brooch.
3. Attach thin leather cording around the holes in the brooch design, including a longer pair that loop around the back of the neck and clasp in the back.
4. Glue pin findings (like you have for enamel pins) onto the back of the pin. I used (2) to prevent uneven stress.

But that's all I have! Hopefully this has given you some ideas for how to get started on your own Violet Evergarden accessories!

