

Finishing PR Bracelets

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PR Bracelets

(A Tutorial by Chris Merlino “Craftdiggity”)

This tutorial assumes a PR or Alumilite bracelet blank as shown below in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1:



You can see that I chose the roughest, ugliest blank I could find. This one might be the worst looking blank I have ever made. They usually come out of the mold much smoother and prettier.

Anyway, the first thing I do is to clean up the inside using a sanding drum mounted to the drill press. The goal here is to smooth everything out.



I follow that up with a quick touch up on the disc sander. I hit both edges and then the top just enough to knock off the rough stuff.



This is what it should look like after:



Now it's ready to be mounted on the lathe. You need to make yourself a jamb chuck like the one shown. It is a roughly $2 \frac{3}{4}$ " cylinder with a tenon cut about $\frac{1}{4}$ " or so wide. It just needs to be less than half the width of the blank.



If necessary, I use thin strips of sandpaper to obtain a snug fit for the blank



Next, we use a skew or a scraper to get our final shape:



This is what it looks like after scraping. Remember, this is just one side finished. Don't forget to flip it over and hit the other side.



The hard part is over. Now, I begin sanding with either 100 or 150 depending on what I'm working with. The key here is to flip it over and get the other side with each grit up until 320 or 400. If you don't, you will end up with a line down the inside that you will have to get rid of.

After 400, I run it up to 2000 and then flip it over and finish the other side. It will look something like this:



At this point, I use a buffing system for my final polish. I do the inside first with buffing drums I bought from PSI.



Then I do the outside using the Beall three wheel buffing system. I'm sure I don't need to show a pic of that do I?

This is the final product:

