



Keum-boo Basics, Vol. 1/Keum-boo: Beyond the Basics, Vol. 2

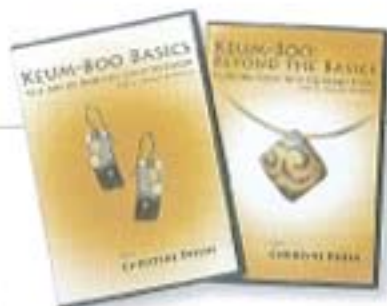
Christine Dhein
Christine Dhein, 2006
DVD, 60 minutes/90 minutes
\$49.95/\$59.95

It would be a mistake to file these DVDs under a single technique. While they do cover keum-boo thoroughly, making the technique accessible to even beginning metalworkers, they are at least as valuable for their insights and advice into general metalsmithing procedures. The first DVD, especially, would make a great introduction to metalsmithing.

Dhein's qualifications are impeccable; she is the assistant director of the Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts in San Francisco. Her experience as an instructor is evident throughout the DVDs, and the information she presents is invaluable.

Dhein begins by explaining the science behind keum-boo; her explanation of diffusion bonding is thorough and clear enough that I understood exactly what she was saying even though I haven't studied chemistry since high school. Rather than simply telling the student what to do, Dhein always makes sure they understand why they're doing it.

In the first DVD, Dhein leads viewers through the process of making a simple, flat pair of earrings. Dhein covers workspace setup, torch procedures, and safety. She also discusses studio safety and follows her own rules — her hair is tied back, she wears safety glasses whenever she's using the torch, and there are no flowing sleeves in sight.



Production values are high throughout, and Dhein makes the most of the advantages of the video format for demonstration. As an example, in the first DVD she takes the viewer through the entire depletion silvering process. In this procedure, which is necessary to prepare sterling silver for the keum-boo process, sterling silver sheet is repeatedly heated, quenched, and pickled until there is a layer of fine silver on the surface. While the typical how-to-genre temptation is to show one cycle and then skip to the final cycle, Dhein walks viewers through all the heating and pickling steps, demonstrating how the color changes that happen during heating provide visual cues as to the state of the metal.

In the second DVD, Dhein takes viewers to the next difficulty level, creating a hollow pendant. She leads students through the process of doming the two halves of the pendant as well as through basic soldering techniques. Again, her explanations are a valuable introduction for beginners. The pendant is finished after Dhein fuses on the gold foil — this time to a curved surface — and applies a patina.

Throughout both DVDs, Dhein introduces each tool as she uses it and explains why and how to use it. She also gives a supply of quick studio tips that are simple yet ingenious.

While Dhein offers tips throughout both DVDs that would be valuable to any metalsmith, these DVDs are likely most valuable to beginners. She presents keum-boo as a technique well within the grasp of an entry-level student: it is, as she explains, a fairly straightforward, simple technique that provides dramatic results. The combination of clarity and comprehensiveness makes this an extremely valuable addition to a metalsmithing library. —HW