

ITS Vintage Photo Pendants

By Rachel Wright

You will need:

- Pewter Blank ITS 3 Loop Rectangle (Sherri Haab Designs)
- ITS Solution (Sherri Haab Designs)
- ITS Paper Image-Laser copy
- 400 grit wet/dry sandpaper
- 1200 grit polishing paper
- ITS Gloss Sealer
- Small brush
- 3 jump rings
- Head pin
- Chain and clasp
- Pearl beads
- Wire cutters, flat nose and round nose pliers



Every year on the first weekend in December, my sisters and I get together for a great weekend of shopping, eating, watching movies and of course more eating. We use this time to exchange gifts and I try to give something handmade. The problem is that I am not very crafty or artistic. I appreciate beautiful things but have trouble making them. This year I wanted to give something special and with meaning because our mother has not been well. I wanted to make an heirloom necklace using Sherri Haab Designs ITS transfer solution. This is how I did it:

1. The first thing you want to do is prepare your image. It is very important to enhance your photo before you print it, the bolder the photo the better. I do not know how to use Photoshop (big surprise) so I just made a word document. Open your word document and click on insert, then scroll down and click on picture then click on from file. Select your image and it should appear on your document. Once your image is on your document it will be quite large, don't worry, just click on the image and it will highlight and have arrows around it, now just pull the arrows in until the image shrinks to your desired size. Hold your piece up to the screen to see how large you want it. If using several images just repeat this process. Remember you're going to use ITS paper so plan ahead and use a lot of images to use up the page.
2. Once your page is ready, print your document on a **LASER** printer or if you do not have a **LASER** printer just save your document to a disc and take it and a sheet of ITS paper to your local printer or copy center (I use Staples). Ask them to print your document on your paper. Also ask them to print your document backwards because you will be putting your image face down. **Your images need to be toner based in order for the ITS process to work.**
3. Now that your images are ready, cut them out to fit your surface. You may need to trim them up a bit to fit your piece.
4. I used Sherri Haab's ITS blanks to make my necklaces. They are cast in pewter from Sherri's original designs and they are beautiful. Even though the pewter blanks already have a little bit of tooth to them it is very important to really sand them to make them a little rougher. I sanded mine quite a bit. Use 400 grit wet/dry sand paper until the surface is matte. The blanks do have some imperfections that give them an old vintage look so don't worry about perfection. Sanding under water will remove dust or you can clean with rubbing alcohol.

5. Ok, now you're ready to apply your solution. Spread an even generous amount of ITS solution on to your blank. (I had to do my project over because I did not use enough solution).
6. Place your image face down on top of your solution press down hard starting in the center pushing out toward the corners. If solution oozes out don't worry, you can clean up the sides using a q-tip and some alcohol. Make sure there are no air bubbles or creases.
7. Once your image is stuck on really well place your piece on an oven safe dish in a **PRE-HEATED** 325-degree oven for 30 min.
8. Let your piece cool, this step is important as the image will adhere better if cool before paper remove in the next step.
9. Soak your baked piece in a dish of water until paper is good and saturated.
10. Once your paper is properly saturated rub off the paper using your thumb and starting in the center. Keep rubbing until most of the paper is gone and image appears.
11. You can now use your blue sanding paper (1200 grit polishing paper) to polish up your image and get rid of any excess paper residue. This will get rid of that "white haze" and should give you a smooth clear image. Do this under water for best results.
12. I wanted extra protection on my pieces (my sisters can be hard on jewelry) so I used Sherri Haab's ITS gloss finish. Just brush one even coat (not too thick) over your image and bake again in a 325-degree oven for 30 min. This really does make a difference and also provides a glossy sheen to the image.
13. You can use a finished chain or create one of your own. I used a sterling silver finished chain and a finished silver and black bead chain for my pieces. I also added a cultured pearl to the bottom with a headpin using silver chain by the foot and two small jump rings. This is a simple project that leaves you with finished jewelry that looks like you have lots of talent. (I won't tell my sisters if you won't)