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NICK KANAS,

SPACE MAN

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THE PROCESS OF LOST WAX CASTING

By Stephan Gunning



There are many ways to make a ring, you can fabricate a ring, taking metal shaping it, and bending and welding it together it to make a ring.

But I am going to talk to you today about another technique it is called lost wax casting.

It is a process where a Wax model is then transformed into a metal item that becomes the piece of jewelry. This technique allows a great deal of freedom in the shaping of the piece that will become the finished piece of jewelry.

These are the steps.

1. You start with a blank piece of a tough wax that can be carved and shaped.
2. You select a Stone to be fitted into the Wax to make the beautiful piece of jewelry.
3. You carve and very carefully fit the stone into the Wax model.
4. You attach Wax feeding lines that are called a spruce system and this is placed onto a rubber base that you put a metal can officially called a casting flask around the Wax model and then pour plaster around the Wax model when the plaster sets up you remove the rubber base that leaves a funnel shape in the plaster.
5. The casting flask is placed in a kiln and taken up to 1300° to destroy the Wax model and leave a negative in its place that can accept molten metal.
6. You placed the casting flask in a centrifugal casting machine with a melting chamber, called the crucible that you place your metal in to melt, that metal then can be centrifugal cast into the very hot casting flask.
7. Once the metal has cooled in the casting flask, the plaster is removed.
8. You have your raw casting in the metal of your choice in this case 14 karat yellow gold still attached to the spruce system.
9. You then saw the cast ring off of the spruce system
10. Using files and emery cloth, you smooth the surface of the ring
11. The ring is then pre-polished getting ready for setting the stone.
12. The stone is carefully set using steel tools, and a hammer to move the gold.
13. You have a new custom piece of jewelry finished and ready to wear



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