

Making Thimbles

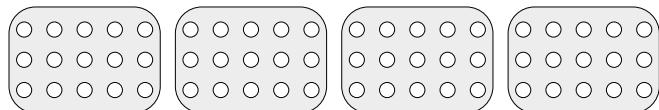
This document describes how I make my thimbles. If this process is too much for you then you buy good thimbles from the Thimble Lady but they are expensive because they are shipped from Australia and in some cases made of silver or other precious metals.

Enter **thimble lady etsy** in your favourite search engine

Making the Plate

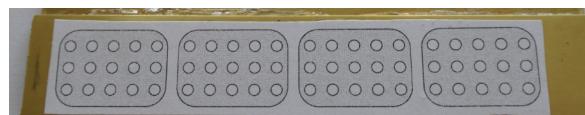
The plate is made from 1mm thick brass sheet. I have been able to acquire both 1"x12" strips and 3"x6" plates

This is the template for drilling the holes.



Print it out with no scaling

And glue it to a strip of brass



Drill the holes with a 2mm drill bit

Remove the burr from the holes front and back



Super glue the plate to a second piece of brass

Cut out the individual plate with a scroll saw with a metal blade, a hack saw, etc.

Clean off the edges



Preparing the Milliput

Milliput come in a variety of colour and are sometimes described as being suitable for various jobs. I haven't observed any difference when used to make thimbles. Because I use two thimbles, one for my first finger and one for my thumb, at the same time, I found convenient to have them in different colour to aid grabbing the correct one quickly



Cut an equal length off each part and mix the two parts together



I usually do this by rolling it into a long cigar shape and fold it into a ball and repeat the process



This can be a long and tiring process. It takes at least 5 minutes.

If you can still see streaks of the original parts then you still need to keep going





Protect the hand with a vinyl glove - it also stops the milliput from stick to your hand

Wrap a roll of Milliput around your finger at the place where you want it. Knead it into shape, taking care that the point where the ends join are well combined

Wetting the fingers of the other hand can help.

Don't worry if it's too thick - the excess can be removed once it's dry.

Once the shape is about right embed the plate. Make sure that there is enough Milliput between the plate and your finger.

Also ensure that the plate doesn't sit proud of the Milliput



Finishing Off

Finishing off is a messy process because it produces a lot of dust and so I work outdoors if I can. Wearing a face mask is recommended.



Start by working on the inside of the thimble. It has usually shrunk in the drying process and so no longer fits on your finger.

Using a riffler file or a Dremel with a grinding bit, remove excess material from the inside. Constantly put it on your finger to check progress and to determine what to remove next.

Pay particular attention to the brass plate, ensuring that it sits in the right place with sufficient Milliput behind it. The edge of the plate is where it is weakest.

If you have removed too much material then you can always mix a little bit more Milliput and add it to the inside of the thimble

Once it sits comfortably at the right place then you can start removing the excess material from the outside. This is a matter of reducing its bulk to make it more comfortable to use and make it aesthetically pleasing



Finish off with a fine sandpaper to remove any rough edge and file marks.

