



JEWELERS GUIDELINES Revised November 2004

More confusion has arisen over jewelry products than any other craft category. Because of this, we are attempting to advise jewelry crafts people concerning some specific products which UMC views as unacceptable for sale at it's shows. This list is not all inclusive, but should help to form a more trouble free perspective for you.

Jewelers must follow the basic UMC show rules which apply to all craft categories. To be considered "hand crafted" and to be exhibited at UMC shows, a product must meet ALL of the following criteria:

**Be an original creation of the Primary Membership (supervision alone does not constitute creation)*

**Involve substantial alteration of basic materials. Basic materials are such things as a tree, gold & silver sheet metal, wax, paint, wool, cloth, clay, glass, etc.*

**Be primarily created within the member's facility*

**Show acceptable level of expertise and craftsmanship*

In addition "hand crafted" items will not be made from kits, manufactured items, resale items, simple enhancement of purchased items, or simple assembly of purchased items.

1. Beads and beaded products.

Commercial beads strung on nylon line, metal bench pins, or knotted thread are not viewed as handcrafted pieces in and of themselves. When using commercially manufactured beads, the finished item must incorporate a hand-crafted focal point that complies with the rules as expressed in UMC's show rules stated above. A few examples of hand-crafted focal points would be creative wire twisting, a hand made drop or a pendant, bead weaving and bead quilting. It should demonstrate quality of construction and individual design.

Should you actually make your individual beads, wonderful! Please don't be offended if you are asked to substantiate this. It is not always readily evident.

If you use a string of beads to hang your handcrafted drop or pendant, this is acceptable. Please remember to price the item as a unit- not beads and drop separately.

2. Commercial Chains (metal)

Cutting to length, attaching a jump ring and spring ring does not a chain maker make. Chains of this type should only appear as a part of a pendant.

3. Commercial findings plus commercial stones.

You may not glue, snap, or crimp a commercial stone in a commercial finding, call it your own creation and offer it for sale at a UMC show. You may mount your own lapidary product in a commercial finding. You may make a mounting for a commercially purchased stone. One or the other, but not both! (Of course, you may make both)

4. Mineral Specimens (Cabinet Pieces)

UMC exists to promote craftsmanship. Any product on your table should be a compliment to your artistry, manual competency, and knowledge. As applied to minerals, you must have gathered them from the field and rendered them to some jewelry piece or artifact, or, if exotic and purchased, have altered them by the lapidary arts to jewelry or art objects. Or, if left mainly in their native form, to have made use of metal skills to permanently render them to wearable pieces of jewelry. You may not offer for re-sale mineral specimens which you have neither mined nor altered to a significant degree.

Many products which UMC views as unacceptable at shows have a legitimate place in the wider commercial marketplace. One must always consider which is more in keeping with ones personal goals--to be accepted as a producer of handmade, creative, and artistic creations or to be the satisfied promoter of a commercial product. United Maine Craftsmen's constitution promotes the former and excludes the latter!