Instructions

1 Use your tin snips to cut the top and bottom ends of the can, such that you are left with an aluminum cylinder. Unless you want to slice off a digit or two in the process, wear work gloves when cutting.

2 Still using your tin snips and work gloves, cut the cylinder in a straight line lengthwise, resulting in an aluminum rectangle.

3 Flatten out the aluminum as much as possible by gently working it with your hands.

4 Determine which part of the can you want to use for your pendant. Then, using the ruler and the permanent marker, mark where you will cut.

Tip: Try taping down the edges of the aluminum rectangle on a flat surface before you mark it up; this will help to keep it straight.

5 Again using the tin snips (did we mention the gloves?), cut out the marked piece of aluminum, ensuring that it is flat.

6 Channelling your inner Tony Soprano, use sandpaper to rough up the back of the piece of aluminum you just cut.

7 Apply spray adhesive to the back of the aluminum and to your sheet of balsa or bass wood.

Note: Don’t worry about cutting the wood down to size to match the aluminum just yet. You’ll do that in a bit.

8 Wait for the spray adhesive to become tacky, as described in the adhesive’s instructions. Then adhere your piece of aluminum to the wood and smooth it out.

9 Using your heavy-duty scissors, cut the wood around the aluminum piece. Be careful here—the wood may split along the grain, so go slowly.

10 Using the sandpaper, dull the sharp corners and smooth the sides of the pendant.

11 With the black permanent marker, color the sides and back of the wood for a more finished look.

12 In a well-ventilated area, use a wooden stir stick to mix equal parts resin and hardener in a small plastic container, following the manufacturer’s instructions carefully to ensure the resin will harden properly.

13 Place two bamboo skewers in parallel on a level, protected surface, and lay the pendant on the skewers. (This will prevent them from sticking to the surface.)

14 Using a small paintbrush, apply a very thin layer of the resin/hardener compound to the edges of the pendant. Don’t use too much; otherwise, you’ll wind up with drips, and the pendant will stick to the skewers.

15 Pour a very small amount of the resin/hardener compound on the top surface of the pendant. Use just enough to cover the top; don’t let the compound drip down the sides. The surface tension in the liquid should help prevent runoff down the edges.

16 Using the stir stick, spread the resin to distribute it evenly on the top of the pendant.

17 Gently exhale on the surface of the pendant to help eliminate bubbles in the resin.

18 Cover the pendant with a bowl to prevent dust particles from settling on the resin and allow it to cure (this usually takes three days).

19 After the top surface of the pendant has cured, flip the pendant over and repeat the process, steps 15 through 18.

20 Drill a hole close to the top of the pendant.

21 Feed a jump ring through the hole you drilled, and attach the pendant to the chain or cord of your choice.