

Air Pirate Medal

Medals are one of the basic items a Steampunk Persona should have as they add spice to the person's backstory. As there are few organizations which award medals and wearing actual military medals is not an option, we can make our own. Use a design that appeals to you and fits your story and you'll be a very happy camper, errrrr. Steampunker.

Items needed:

1. Ribbon: The best option is grosgrain. It can be either a solid color, striped with any number of colors or even patterned if that fits your intent. Length of 6.5" (190mm). Width of 1.5" (38mm) is typical for men. For use with formal wear, $\frac{7}{8}$ " (22mm) is a better size and is also good for ladies.
2. Top Bar: A wooden coffee stirrer. Length = 1.25" (30mm), width = $\frac{1}{4}$ " (7mm) (or the size of the stirrer if a little larger).
3. Brooch: A standard brooch pin 1" (25mm) in width. Either a simple hook catch or hook with rotating lock will work.
4. Suspension/Ring: Any jump ring will work. The color should match the metal color of the medal. In some cases only one ring will be necessary to attach the medal to the ribbon.

4. Medal: Any medal design of your choice will work. The simpler the design the better. Although use of coins is possible, the value and country names can be distracting depending on the intent of the medal. Width to be typically no larger than the ribbon. Any metal is good as it gives a weight to the piece. Plastics, stone and aluminum can also be used.

5. Decoration: In some cases, the addition of stars or other geometric shaped elements makes the design more interesting. Organic things such as animal charms work as well providing they're small enough. For Steampunk purposes, the addition of gears or watch hands can make the design more genre authentic.

6. Adhesives: A glue stick paste is valuable in making the ribbon adhere to itself without bleeding through like super glues will. Super glue (most any brand) or E6000 is used to bond the ribbon to the wooden support bar.

Steps:

- a) Cut the Top bar to 1.25" long. Use sand paper to clean up the edges and smooth out the surfaces.
- b) Sand the attaching surface of the brooch pin so it will adhere better.
- c) Cut a 6.5-7" length of ribbon, ensuring the edges are straight and square.
- d) Fold the ribbon lengthwise. One side to 4", the other to

3.5"

e) Add the top bar by gluing it onto the end of the 4" side.

e) Fold a 'V' shape into the long folded end - add paste to retain the 'V'.

f) Slide the suspension ring over the ribbon and position at the 'V' if using a solid ring.

g) Fold the end of the ribbon with the top bar over to hide the bar.

h) Fold the short side of the ribbon upwards to meet the end where the top bar is and glue it down.

j) Glue the brooch pin onto the ribbon over the rear side.

k) Add the suspension ring onto the ribbon 'V' if using a cut jump ring.

l) Add the decoration of your choice by gluing them onto the ribbon face (stars for example).

m) Add the medal of your choice, ensuring it lies flat in respect to the ribbon. Use a second ring if it doesn't.

n) Allow your new creation to dry before wearing.