

Illustrated Earrings

Inspired by Latvian Seven Day rings

CRAFT
CLUB



By Mia Vilciņš

Mia is a jewellery designer and crafter from an English and Latvian family.

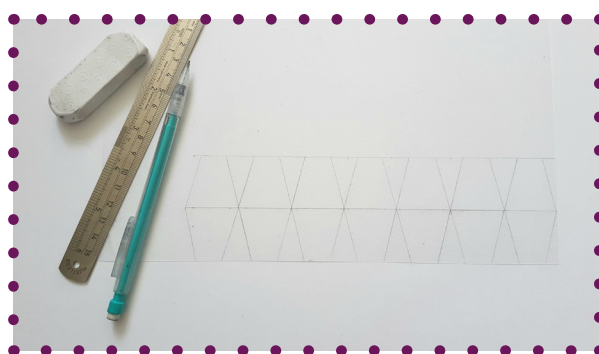
In this tutorial Mia will show you how to make a pair of colourful statement earrings, inspired by the traditional Latvian seven day ring, featuring ethnic symbols. These symbols are worn by Latvian people in a variety of ways, including jewellery, embroidered clothing, and leather work; to be a reminder of positive messages, keep away bad spirits and bring good luck.



materials



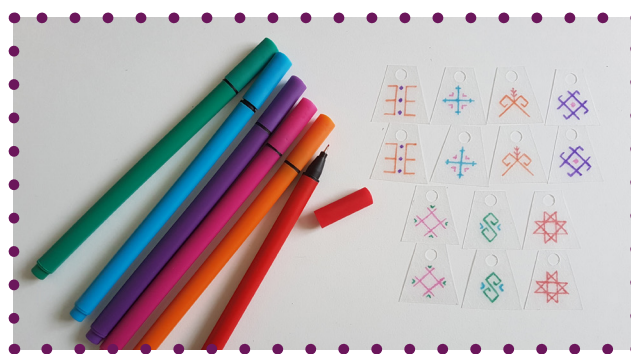
- Frosted Shrink Plastic • Pencil • Ruler • Eraser
- Fine Nib Coloured Pens • Hole Punch • Scissors
- Jump Rings: 2 x 8mm, 2 x 6mm, 14 x 4mm • Oven
- Pliers x 2 • Earring Wires x 2 • Baking tray and foil



1. On the shrink plastic, lightly draw 14 trapeze shapes in pencil, 1.5 cm x 3 cm x 3cm, using the ruler for neat lines.



2. Cut out each shape with sharp scissors. Punch one hole at the short edge of each, making sure to leave at 3mm gap at the top edge.



3. On the textured side of the plastic, draw on one of 7 symbols in coloured pen. Repeat the symbol on a second shape; then repeat for all of the 7 symbols.



4. Preheat your oven to 175 (350 /Gas mark 3), and line a clean baking tray with foil. Place each of the symbols flat on the tray, with at least a 1cm space around so that none are touching, and place in the oven for a couple of minutes.



5. Watch as the shapes curl and shrink. Once they have stopped curling, remove from the oven and allow to cool. If any shapes are curled at the edges, pop back into the oven to reheat for a further minute, then place on a heatproof flat surface, and quickly press with a coaster.



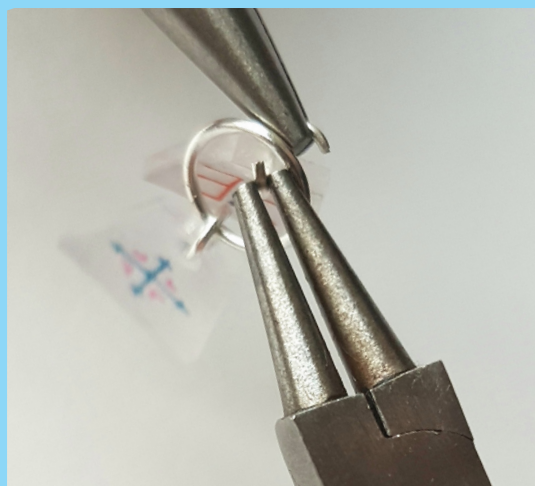
6. Using the pliers to open the jump ring, place a 4mm ring through the pierced hole of one of the 7 shapes, around the 8mm jump ring, then close the gap in the 4mm jump ring. Repeat with the other 6 symbol shapes, then repeat for the second set on the other 8mm ring.



7. Attach the 8mm ring to the base of the earring wire using one of the 6mm jump rings, and repeat for the second ring. Ensure all jump rings are closed with no gaps, and then your earrings are ready to wear!

Top Tips

- Wash hands before handling shrink plastic, to avoid transferring any oils to the surface.
- Ensure you have a clean eraser by rubbing on a plain piece of paper to remove any marks.
- To open jumps rings, push the ends of the circle past each other, in a twisting motion, so that they are no longer flat circles, then slide them back towards each other, this will keep the circular shape.
- Protect your hands with an oven mitt when handling a hot oven tray.

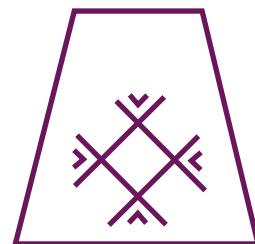


Symbols and Templates:

Symbols are worn by Latvian people in a variety of ways, including jewellery, embroidered clothing, and leather work; to be a reminder of positive messages, keep away bad spirits and bring good luck.

Used for centuries, they have a multiple interpretations, with slightly different meanings to people across the Baltic states and the world, but with the same essence and feeling; and are not limited to the seven signs used in this jewellery creation.

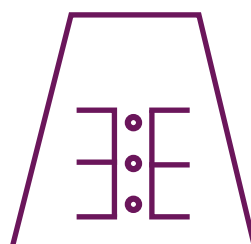
Use these as templates, you'll also find a description of the key beliefs associated with each symbol that have inspired this project.



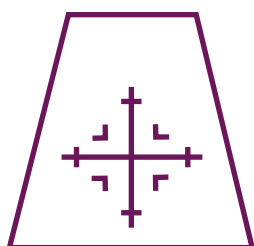
'Aka', the well
Represents experience, knowledge, and creative powers



'Jumis', life crop
For fertility, prosperity and good fortune



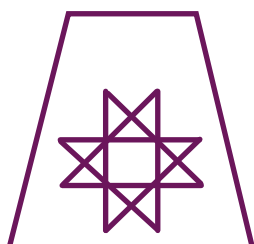
'Ūsiņš', home spirit
Protects you in your travels



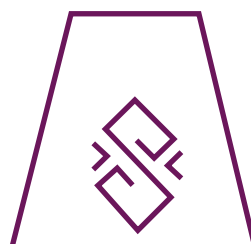
'Krusts', the Cross
Guards, blesses and brings happiness



'Ugunskrusts', the Fire Cross
Attracts happiness and good energy



'Auseklis', the morning star
Brings light in darkness



'Zalktis', the Serpent
For wisdom and being resourceful