

## [Frequently Asked Questions on Colored Silver Alloys.](#)

Light Colored shades of Silver alloys were developed by United PMR for those customers interested in marketing a Unique type of Silver Jewelry as opposed to the conventional White Colored Sterling Silver Jewelry. As the cost of Fine Silver has quadrupled in the past few years, it has become very difficult to find a market for the regular conventional Sterling Silver jewelry. These colored alloys have been formulated in different shades of light colors or tints with fine silver contents ranging from 20 % to 60 %. Therefore, these alloys **CAN NOT** be called or labeled as “STERLING” Jewelry.

### **Is it possible to achieve colored alloys in 925 Sterling Silver alloy?**

NO! Since there are only 7.5 % of alloying elements, it is not possible to achieve any shades of color other than white, in 925 Sterling Silver Alloys. Even with the entire 7.5 % Copper, you will still only get White color.

### **How do you “hallmark “ or how to put a legal “ stamp “ on these colored silver alloys?**

You are only required to stamp your company “logo” stamp on the inside of the shank or in some other inconspicuous places within the jewelry similar to stamping any sterling silver jewelry. Please do **NOT** hallmark any jewelry made with these alloys with the words “Silver”, “Sterling”, “Solid Silver”, “Ster”, “Sterling Silver” or 925.

### **Do they need to add their own Silver to the alloy or is it a pre mix?**

All shades of Silver alloys come in PRE-MIXED grain which is ready for casting or fabrication.

### **Are the alloys suitable for Casting & Fabrication?**

All shades of these colored alloys are for “all-purpose” applications. They can be cast, rolled, fabricated or deep-drawn according to the customers manufacturing requirements. Proper annealing procedures have to be followed to soften the metal while fabrication operations.

### **What is the composition and workability of these alloys?**

The composition for each of these alloys are mainly Silver, Copper, Zinc. Only two of the white shades have small amounts of Nickel. There are no toxic or hazardous elements in any of our alloys. These alloys may be cast, fabricated and finished like any regular sterling silver alloys including stone-in-place ( wax-setting ) casting procedures if applicable.

### **What is the tarnish resistance of these alloys?**

These alloys have poor tarnish resistance compared to gold alloys. Colored silver alloys are formulated with de-oxidizers and fluidizers and will possess satisfactory fire-scale resistance, fluidity and re-usability. Nevertheless, it is highly recommended to provide a “tarnish resistance” coating on your jewelry, with anti-tarnishing dip, plating, e-coating or lacquering process, which are normally used for traditional sterling silver jewelry.

### **Do you carry color matching solders for these alloys?**

Yes !. We have a Silver Solder Alloy ( SSA ) with proper instructions on the addition of fine silver to make Easy, Medium and Hard Flow solders for soldering the white and green shades of alloy. For the pink silver jewelry, we have a Solder Master alloy ( 11SA ), which has to be pre-mixed with 40 % silver by weight to make a color matching solder for the pink shades of alloys.

## Anti-Tarnish Coatings for Colored Silver Alloys

Please try to use a chromate conversion coating such as Protectox -1 and/or Protectox -II solutions from Technic from Cranston, Rhode Island. Their website is : <http://www.technic.com/chm/chemp.htm>.

They have anti-tarnish coating products such as Orosene 999, Silver 1006 and Tarniban 51. I would strongly suggest that you speak to a technical person at Technic for more information on the usage of these products.

E-Coating : Lacquer specialists like our supporting advertisers [G.J. Nikolas](#) or [Agate Lacquer](#) may be able to help you, or suppliers of electrophoretic lacquer systems like [Coatec India](#).

You may also consider using anti-tarnish papers and tissues or packaging the carnation pink jewelry to enhance its tarnish resistant properties. More information on such products are available at <http://www.shorinternational.com/Tissue.htm>

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2781 Townline Road , Alden, NY 14004 .  
Phone : (800) 999-3463; International Phone : +1-(716)-683-8334  
Fax : (800) 533-6657; International Fax : +1-(716)-683-5433  
e-mail: [sales@unitedpmr.com](mailto:sales@unitedpmr.com); Website: [www.unitedpmr.com](http://www.unitedpmr.com)