

Argentium Instructor Certification

Test Paper - Level 1



ARGENTIUM®
THE FINEST SILVER

Argentium Instructor Certification - Level 1 Test

Testing hours

- 19.5 hrs testing time an AIC test site (3 days at 8 hrs per day, including lunch and break times - • 6.5 hrs actual testing per day), **OR** 3 months time limit for proctored test of 19.5 hrs testing time.
- 6 projects and a written exam.
 - 150 points possible - 105 must be correct to pass, time over penalty = 5 points per 30 minutes.

Day 1

Written exam: 1 hr - 25 questions (50 points in total)

Project 1) Stacking ring: 1.5 hrs (fused) - 10 points

Materials: 2mm (12ga) wire x 203.2mm (8") (*ring stack*)

Fabrication:

- Rings are size 7 (tolerance of ¼ size)
- Rings are stacked straight
- Rings are round
- Rings are all the same size
- Rings are even thickness throughout with no thin spots

Fusing:

- Seams between rings are not under-fused (dark shadow between rings indicates weak contact)
- Seams between rings are not over-fused and flooded (fail - must redo)

Polishing and finishing: (Timing does not include time in the kiln to harden)

- No visible tool marks
- Finish is high polish
- No scratches inside ring
- No visible polishing compounds, fingerprints or watermarks



Project 2) Ring with bezel: 4 hrs
(fused and soldered) - 20 points

Materials:

- 1.3mm (16ga) sheet x 9mm (0.354") x 60mm (2.362") (*ring blank*)
- 9 x 7 oval cab
- 0.5mm (24ga) sheet x 4mm (0.157") x 30mm (1.181") (*step bezel*)
- 0.5mm (24ga) sheet x 2mm (0.079") x 30mm (1.181") (*step bezel*)
- Hard / Medium-Hard Argentium solder (*soldering bezel into shank, or may be fused*)



Continued on Pg. 3

Fabrication:

- Ring is size 7 (tolerance of ¼ size)
- Ring is round
- Thickness of ring is even throughout (no thin spots)
- Bezel is correct height
- Bezel is soldered straight (not crooked on shank)
- Bezel is touching stone with no gaps

Texture: Hammered texture is even throughout

Fusing and soldering: (Option of fusing or soldering)

- Bezel is fused properly with no pits in seam
- Texture on shank is not flooded with solder where bezel meets shank
- No excess solder visible inside ring

Setting:

- Stone is level
- Stone is straight, not crooked
- Stone is not scratched
- Stone is set at proper height in bezel
- Burnished or bright cut edge of bezel next to stone

Polishing and finishing: (Timing does not include time in the kiln to harden)

- Seam is invisible on bezel
- No visible tool marks on bezel
- Side edges of ring are filed and finished
- Edges have no tool marks
- Finish is high polish with no visible polishing compounds, fingerprints or watermarks

Day 2

Project 3) Hollow form half round ring: 2.5 hrs
(choice of fused or soldered) - 10 points

Materials:

- 0.8mm (20ga) sheet x 10mm (0.394") x 153mm (6") (*ring blanks*)
- Hard / Medium-Hard / Easy Argentium solder (*fabrication*)

Fabrication:

- Ring is size 7 (tolerance of ¼ size)
- Ring is round
- Ring is even thickness throughout

Fusing or soldering:

- No visible seam
- No pits in seam

Continued on Pg. 4



Polishing and finishing: (Timing does not include time in the kiln to harden)

- No visible tool marks
- Edges of ring finished with no scratches
- No scratches inside ring
- Finish is high polish
- No visible polishing compounds, fingerprints or watermarks

Project 4) Pendant with bezel and bale: 4 hrs
(fused and soldered) - 35 points

Materials:

- 0.5mm (24ga) sheet x 38mm x 50mm (*base sheet*)
- 0.5mm (24ga) sheet x 2.5mm x 38mm • (*bezel strip*)
- 0.8mm (20ga) round wire x 609.6mm (24") (*wirework and granules*)
- 8 x 6 cab onyx
- Medium Argentium solder (*soldering bale*)

Fabrication - bale:

- Bale is symmetrical
- Bale is formed to a proper shape with no kinks
- Movement is not binding
- Jumping is proper size (1mm to 1.5mm ID)
- Fusing is complete and not under-fused and weak (shadow under wires)
- Bale is not over-fused (fail - must redo)
- Bale has the right amount of play (no excess length of wire going through jumping)
- Jumping is centered on pendant

Fabrication - pendant:

- Wires are evenly spaced
- Wires are round
- Pendant is round
- Wires are not over-fused and flooded
- Wires are not under-fused with shadows under them
- Granules are consistent size
- Granules are not over-fired and flooded (fail - must redo)
- Granules are not under-fired and weak (dark shadow underneath)

Soldering - bale: Solder is not excessive

Setting:

- Bezel is proper height
- Bezel seat is cut to proper depth
- Bezel covers proper amount of stone
- Stone is not scratched
- Stone is straight
- Stone is level
- Burnished or bright cut edge of bezel next to stone



Continued on Pg. 5

Polishing and finishing:

- Fused seams of wires are invisible
- No visible tool marks on wires
- Bezel has no tool marks
- Inside circle has no tool marks
- No scratches on base sheet
- Finish is even and lustrous
- Edges are finished on bale
- No tool marks on bale
- Edges of round pendant are smooth and finished
- Edges of round pendant have no scratches or tool marks
- No visible polishing compounds, fingerprints or watermarks

Day 3

Project 5) Hollow form lentil bead: 2.5 hrs (fused) - 15 points

Materials:

- 0.65mm (22ga) discs x 25.4mm (1") diameter x 2pcs (*discs for bead*)
- 0.8mm (20ga) wire x 609.6mm (24") (*wirework for bead*)

Fabrication:

- Domed halves are same curvature (one not deeper than the other)
- Seam is fused evenly
- Seam meets properly (filed to meet at point)
- Domes are same size (one does not stick out past the other)

Fusing:

- Bead is lentil shape
- Bead is not 'out of round'
- Holes are centered
- Wires are not over-fused and flooded (fail - must redo)
- Wires are not under-fused with shadows under them

Polishing and finishing:

- Holes are finished inside with no tool marks
- Finish is even and lustrous
- No tool marks on base
- No visible tool marks on wires
- No scratches on domes
- No visible polishing compounds, fingerprints or watermarks



Project 6) Chain and clasp: 4 hrs (choice of fused or soldered) - 10 points

Continued on Pg. 6



Materials:

- 1.3mm (16ga) x 914.4mm (36") (*chain links*)
- 2mm (12ga) x 152.4mm (6") (*toggle and bar*)
- Hard / Medium-Hard / Easy Argentium solder (*fabrication*)

Fabrication:

- Links are round
- Links are even size - dowel size 3/16" (5mm)
- Toggle functions properly
- Chain is 177.8mm (7") length - 6.35mm (0.25") variance allowed

Soldering or fusing:

- No excess solder on links
- No excess solder on toggle clasp
- Seams are not visible

Polishing and finishing:

- No visible tool marks on clasp
- No visible tool marks on wires
- Finish is bright and lustrous
- No visible polishing compounds, fingerprints or watermarks

End of Test - Level 1

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