

Bronzing Baby Shoes

To Bronze baby shoes, and similar non-conductive items, you will need:

1. [Caswell Sealer Concentrate](#)
2. [Silvaspray Conductive Paint](#)
3. [Airbrush](#)
4. [Bright Acid Copper Plating Kit](#)
5. [Metal Antiquing Solutions](#) or [Bronze Plating Kit](#)

Replace laces if worn. Wash the shoe and laces separately in detergent and allow to dry. Tie the laces, and allow them to fall naturally. Glue them into position using a hot melt glue gun. Glue the tongue into position. Cut off any frayed stitching etc. To aid in sinking the shoe, you may pour some plaster-of-paris into the toe. This will also help the shoe keep its shape. Allow to thoroughly dry. Affix plating wires to the shoe. You could put a couple of wood screws in the sole and heel of the shoe and also use the shoelace holes. The more wires the better conductivity you'll get.



Immerse the shoe into the mixed CASWELL SEALER for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally to remove any entrapped air bubbles in the toe area. CASWELL SEALER comes in concentrated form. 1 quart of sealer must be mixed with 1 quart of distilled water before use. Make a shoe rack by hammering several 4" nails into a small plank of wood. Invert the shoe over the nail and allow it to drain and thoroughly dry for about 4-8 hours. A second 30 min dip in the sealer renders the shoe completely non-porous. Allow 4-8 hours to dry.

Apply several thin coats of Silvaspray using an air brush. Thoroughly stir. Contents will settle so make sure you thoroughly stir each time you use this material. Spray over the shoe, avoiding runs, to provide an even coverage. The coating should extend into the shoe as far as possible. Allow to dry. Make sure the wires are well coated; otherwise you will not conduct power to the surface of the shoe.

Suspend the shoe from the tank bar of your Acid Copper Plating Kit, which should already be wired to the power unit, and immerse in the plating tank. The shoe should immediately start plating. The average baby shoes will measure approximately 25-30 square inches so should be plated at the rate of (1amp per 20 sq ") 2-3 amps.

Plate for approximately 1 hour. Remove and inspect. Sand/emery any rough spots. Continue plating for about 3-5 hours, checking periodically for any rough spots, which should be sanded smooth. Smooth cloths and leather will have different appearances. Rinse the part off, then polish lightly.

After copper plating, the part may be antiqued using our Metal Finishing Solutions, or plated using Bronze, Gold, Silver or Nickel.