

## **Award Q&A's for BSBS 2024 Spring Show Awards**

### **Award #2**

Q1: The text of this award reads, "Glass set in metal specialized to small jewels or buttons found on vests." The wording "small jewels" sounds like it is restricted to buttons of the Cheshire jewel type that used to be called "weskits," but the terms "weskits" and "small jewels" are no longer officially defined. Also, I believe that only clear and colored glass, not black glass, set in metal were considered "weskits/small jewels." Since the award is written to class 8-0, it is unclear which subclasses are included. Is black glass set in metal acceptable?

A1: We are going to focus on the "buttons found on vests" language. Given that the award is written to 8-0, all small buttons of Glass Mounted in/on Metal will be acceptable for this award.

Q2: Why, given that the award is written for "small" jewels, does the number for novices show 25 any size?

A2: Good catch! Novices' trays should include 25 small buttons.

### **Award #4**

Q1: The term "shaped steel" OME is confusing. Some say that round cut steels are allowed; others say only shapes other than round. What does "shaped steel" include?

A1: Because the award doesn't say "shapes other than round," round steels are an acceptable shape for this award.

Q2: Do the words "try to include and balance the pictorial sections" apply to the button design in general, or to the shapes of the cut steels?

A2: In this case, "pictorial sections" applies to both the button design in general, and the shapes of the cut steels. The pictorial section can be suggested by the shape of the steel when it represents the totality or most of the image, such as in the case of small buttons that feature a steel shaped as an animal, object, or plant, etc., with little other detail. In these cases, the shaped steel determines the pictorial section. In the case of buttons with more complex or detailed images, in which the shaped steel plays only a part, it is the overall design that determines the pictorial section.

Q3: The award mentions balanced pictorial sections, but does that exclude patterns?

Q3: The wording, “try to include” implies recognition that the most common brass buttons with shaped steel will not be pictorial. I believe the wording is meant to welcome even entries that don’t include all four of the pictorial sections. In keeping with this interpretation, patterns are not excluded by the language of the award. I would view the inclusion of an identified pattern on a tray as a plus.

## **Award #16**

Q1: This award seems to have been interpreted differently by different people. Some say that the button back (material) does not need to be orange, and that the front of the button must be at least one-half orange in color to qualify for this award. Is this correct?

A1: No, this is not correct. The glossary of *The Blue Book* specifically makes a distinction between the appearance of color (color on the surface) and the color of a button. It says that “the color of a button is typically determined by the color visible at the shank or back of the button.” Our award did not specify appearance or surface color, rather than base color, so the whole button--including all of the back--should be orange

When it comes to the front of the button, the glossary also indicates that a button with glass overlay is still the color at the shank. This is not a glass award, however. Because it is a materials award, the safest course would be to avoid any button so completely covered by a different color that the only way to know it is orange is to remove it from the tray. In other words, I don’t anticipate a requirement that a certain percentage of the front, or even the majority, must be orange, but I would expect to see an orange base when the button is viewed from the side.

Q2: I have struggled with finding acceptable materials for this award. It seems that metal, enamel, and glass set in metal buttons, by their nature, cannot meet the requirements of the award. But would decorative finish (DF) that covers the back as well as the front of a button make it acceptable?

A2: You are correct that certain materials are unlikely to meet the requirements of this award. Because this is a materials award, we will be strict about color to avoid getting into all kinds of trouble. Nonetheless, you may have noticed that I didn’t outright exclude metal, enamel, or glass in metal buttons. I can easily imagine an orange enameled button with orange counter-enameling that completely covers the back of the button. Such a button would be acceptable. I’ve looked at quite a few metal buttons with original orange tint on the metal. I didn’t see any examples in which the back was completely covered with orange, but someone else might have found such a button. If the entire surface of the button consistently was tinted orange, it would meet the requirements of this award.

As suggested in your question, orange DF that covers the back as well as the front of a button would meet the award requirements. A plaster or wood (or metal, etc.) button on which orange paint completely covered the back (except for a metal shank, possibly) would meet the requirements of the award. Similarly, a vegetable ivory or bone button that was dyed orange after cutting or shaping, so that even the shank or sew-through holes were clearly orange, would meet requirements.

This will be a challenging award! Attempting this tray myself forced me to work through what I found to be a challenging definition. I also consulted multiple expert collectors on interpretation of the guidance. The more I learned, the more conservative my interpretation became. To play it safe, I ended up removing several buttons that I started out with on the tray, such as a metal-backed orange fabric button that normally meets our definition of orange, but isn't orange at the shank, nor on the back (except around the edges). However, had the orange fabric completely covered the back (up to the shank), I would have considered it acceptable. It will be fun to see what everyone comes up with!

### Award #28

Q: I included several ovals on my tray for award 28 that have scalloped or jagged edges around the perimeter of the button. After reading the definition of oval in 23-10.2.1, I now question if they are appropriate for this award. What do you think?

A: Unfortunately, I agree that based on 23-10.2.1, oval buttons with scalloped, pointed, or otherwise irregular edges would not be appropriate for award 28.