



**JAY
PATEAKOS**

If there were ever jeweler to lean on for jewelry repairs or unique design work, Tiverton's Studio By the Sea owner Peter Tirpaeck would be that rarest of finds.

Tirpaeck, a full-service jeweler since 1985, calls the work he does his own special "magic."

That magic takes center stage just about every day when a potential customer walks into his Tiverton shop, clutching a prized family heirloom or trinket and humbly asks, "Can you fix this?"

The answer is always yes.

"The magic relates to experience. I take on everything. Families come in with their precious jewelry that is broken and I have the experience to fix it. I see what needs to be done and I can actually do it. It's like reverse-engineering,"

said Tirpaeck. "There are so many things from this trade that you can't learn from a book – you have to engage in it yourself. It's interpretive science here."

The magic goes beyond jewelry repair into constructing unique, one-of-a-kind designer pieces.

"We can have a conversation and I can take what you envision and make it three-dimensional," said Tirpaeck. "I actually see them before I make them. It's about real quality shining through and someone enjoying what they are doing – having confidence in what they are doing."

The jeweler and his magic

All of the repair and design work is performed by Tirpaeck. As a local service, he also repairs eyeglasses and changes watch batteries.

We recently sat down with Tirpaeck, seeking to discover some secrets behind his magic.



Q *You obviously enjoy your role as a Jeweler and a designer. How have you grown into your profession?*

With over three decades of experience, I have accumulated a large amount of knowledge and insight, which is so important in this trade. The skills I have mastered have come through a process known to me as "experientia docet," a Latin-rooted term for knowledge and skill acquired

through experience. This means that I am eager to take on complicated and intricate tasks as the time and effort I devote to repairing and designing becomes as precious as the piece itself. My hope is that each time you wear one of my creations you will be rewarded with a sense of being a part of this unique process.



Q *It sounds like you have a diverse set of skills.*

Can you tell us about some of your national accounts?

Over the last several years I have developed dozens of original designs and manufactured thousands of pieces for retailers such as Vineyard Vines and Allen Edmonds.

I have a fine working relationship with two notable factories in Providence and

together we have produced a wide array of bronze belt buckles and sculpted bottle openers to the national markets.



Q Are there any specific examples that stick out to you?

Many times when I sit down with a customer, the pieces they lay out on the table all have a story. This aspect is very important and I have combined many smaller pieces from older items and created a family coin. These coin pendants are assembled from relics from the past and create a three-dimensional story that will be cherished and retold for years to come.

Another example of a legacy piece is when I create wedding bands using new gold rings that I have embellished with gemstones or features that are sourced from a past generation's possession.

A final example would be a very common scenario where there is a large older ring or brooch that I convert into a series of earrings or pendants that are then gifted to the next generation of nieces, granddaughters, or children. Fashioning jewelry items in this manner is a great way to give that special gift at Christmas or for a birthday. ■

All of the examples above share a common theme, Tirpaek noted, that when you incorporate what you already possess into a new design, you add value to what you own. Also, the money that you save by doing so will open you up to many other possibilities.

Visit Studio by the Sea and engage yourself in designing jewelry that preserves the heritage and symbolism of items near and dear to you and yours.

Studio by the Sea is located in the Historic Tiverton Four Corners at 3879 Main Road. Visit studiobythesea.com or call 401-639-4348.



Q Can you tell us about some examples of how you accommodate customers with your design process?

Nearly every customer that I speak to has a drawer or box of broken or obsolete jewelry items. Often these pieces are out of style, or the wrong size, or perhaps they are missing stones. These items are relics from the past, yet they still possess real value. I have a process that I call "redirection" where I cut up older pieces of jewelry into separate components, and then I rearrange them into an entirely different design. These Legacy pieces are always an attractive way to leverage what you own and at the same time preserve and enhance your jewelry.



Q How does this redirection process work exactly?

You would make an appointment and come in with your dormant treasures and I provide a free assessment of what you have. Next, we discuss what you would like as an end result and then together we design and discuss how I will make it happen. Oftentimes, I can create a piece without the customer having to purchase any new material at all. What was once a dormant batch of jewelry hidden in a drawer becomes a stunning item of adornment that can now be worn and admired.

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