

BIGBURY MINT

MAKERS OF FINE MEDALS

COMMISSIONING A MEDAL GUIDE

Welcome to our special guide to help you through the exciting process of having Bigbury Mint make your very own medal.

We have over 40 years experience in the design and manufacture of high quality medals for all occasions.

If you would like to discuss commissioning a medal why not contact us now:



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Commission Guide Index

Page	Topic
3	Medal Examples
4	Stage 1 - Medal Design
5	Stage 2 - Medal Sculpting
6	Stage 3 - Making the Medal Dies
7	Stage 4 - Pressing the Medals
8	Stage 5 - Medal Finishing
9	Stage 6 - Medal Presentation
10	Price Guide
11	Medal Commission FAQ's



“We pride ourselves in providing a first class personal service from start to finish ”

Matthew Holland, Managing Director

All of our medals are designed and manufactured in England

MEDAL COMMISSION EXAMPLES



View our medal gallery bigburymint.com/gallery/

STAGE 1 MEDAL DESIGN



Bigbury Mint
Design Sheet



Bigbury Mint

Design Sheet



During this stage we will discuss your requirements and design ideas with you. We can use your existing sketches, logos and crests or even create something completely new for you.



We will create high quality artwork for you to help visualise your medal design. This can be supplied in electronic or hard copy format. Only when you are satisfied with the design will we proceed to the next stage.

STAGE 2 MEDAL SCULPTING

The design for your medal will be sculpted into very fine plaster at a scale of 4 to 5 times larger than the final medal size. Sculpting may be completed totally by hand, with the aid of a high speed computer controlled engraving machine or a mix of both.



Upon completion of this stage we will photograph the completed work and send it to you for approval. Only when you are fully satisfied with the sculpting work will we proceed to the next stage

STAGE 3 MAKING THE MEDAL DIES

The medal design sculpting work completed on a plaster plate will, over many complex stages, be reduced in scale and transferred to a hardened steel die. This will be machined to size, hardened and polished ready for use.



John Simpson - Architect



Borough of Gateshead

The medal dies displayed above are working dies from a recently completed commission. Dies must be carefully maintained and stored as even minor blemishes on their surface can be transferred to the pressed medal.

STAGE 4 PRESSING THE MEDALS

The medal die is inserted into a special press designed to press your design into a medal blank at a pressure up to 500 tonnes. Medals normally have to be pressed more than once to achieve the desired definition and softened inbetween presses with a process called annealing.



The excellent definition of our medals is due to the high sculptural relief of our plaster models and the great care taken during pressing to ensure that the full relief has been achieved .

STAGE 5 MEDAL FINISHING

After the medals have been pressed the process of finishing your medals begins. The pressed, 'raw' medals are put through many stages of careful preparation to achieve the required level of finish. Solid silver or gold medals are sent to the London Assay Office for testing and hallmarking.

If your medals are designed to be worn with a ribbon we will attach the appropriate type of suspension at this stage.

Silver Groat of Henry VI



Lord Bath Portraiture Medal



Toshiba Award Medal

We can use a special wax on bronze surfaces to provide protection when handled, and ensure your medals look absolutely great for years to come.

STAGE 6 MEDAL PRESENTATION

Medals can be worn 'military style' by pinning the medal to the chest, worn around the neck using a length of ribbon or presented in a special pouch, case or glazed frame. We will discuss all of the available options with you and can arrange for appropriate samples to be sent to you.

If your medal requires a ribbon we can help you decide the design and colours that may be used. We can arrange a ribbon swatch to be sent to you for approval before manufacture.



PRICE GUIDE

The cost of making your new medals can be broken down into; design and die making, the making of the medals themselves and the packaging and delivery costs.

Design & Die Costs

The cost of the die varies according to the amount of work we need to do in order to make the best of your design. It can take one person days or weeks to complete a carving of the plaster model. You should allow a minimum of £850 per die, whilst designs with portraits start at £2,000. Obviously you get what you pay for and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that your medals will last for hundreds if not thousands of years.

Medal Costs

This will be based on your individual requirements and whether you require precious metal etc. For example:

- 200 off 50mm diameter bronze medallions would cost £8.50 each
- 200 off silver-plated 36.6mm diameter military style medals ready to wear with your design ribbon would be £48 each.

Packaging

Presentation cases, cardboard boxes, pouches, plastic wallets, transparent frames and glass cases are available for your various sized medals.

We will work out what the best solution is for your medal. For example:

- 200 off presentation cases with inserts to fit 50mm medallions would cost £4 each
- 200 off card boxes with vacuum-formed inserts to fit military style medals would cost £3 each.

Delivery

This is calculated at cost and depends on bulk and weight. For the above examples the cost would be £40 to a UK address. PLEASE NOTE. All prices shown are examples only and are subject to change. All prices exclude VAT.

MEDAL COMMISSION FAQ'S

Question: How long will it take to have my medals made?

Answer: From agreement of your medal design we usually allow 10 weeks to make and deliver your medals

Question: The cost of commissioning appears quite expensive, why?

Answer: You'll appreciate from the stages explained within this brochure that making high quality, beautiful medals is a highly skilled and labour intensive process. We are very proud of the quality of our medals and, as most things in life, you get what you pay for!

Question: Will I be kept informed about the progress of my commission?

Answer: Absolutely. At key points of the project, we will supply you with artwork and photographs for you to scrutinise and give approval before we proceed to the next stage.

Question : I'd like to see physical samples of previously commissioned medals, can that be arranged?

Answer: Yes, we'd be delighted to send an appropriate selection of medals to you for scrutiny. We're absolutely confident that you'll be impressed with the quality and finish of our medals. In addition it'll help you determine the type of finish you'd prefer for your new medal!

Question: We have ceremonies annually, can we have more medals pressed for each event and if so how much notice do you need?

Answer: We can use your medal die to press as many medals as you require. We'd like at least 6 weeks notice to ensure they get delivered in time for your event.

Question: We'd like our medals to include a ribbon, what options are there?

Answer: We can help you design the ribbon, select the appropriate colours and type of ribbon attachment i.e. worn around the neck or pinned to the chest 'military style'

Question: I'd like to have the recipients name engraved on the medal. Is that possible?

Answer: Yes, we have a specialist engraving machine that that can engrave medals on the rim or a suitable space on the surface of the medal (usually on the reverse side).

Question: I'm still not sure what medal style or finish I'm looking for. Can you help?

Answer: Why not take a browse through our commissioned medal gallery website: www.bigburymint.com/gallery You'll find a diverse range of medal types under a variety of categories. We're sure you'll find a style of design and finish appropriate to your needs.