What is granulation?

Goldsmithing Techniques · https://www.purejewels.com/faqs/goldsmithing-techniques/what-is-granulation/

The Ancient Art of Decorating Gold with Delicate Dots

Granulation is one of those beautiful, time-honoured techniques in jewellery that often goes unnoticed, yet it brings a quiet kind of magic to the pieces it touches.

It’s a way of decorating metal, usually gold or silver, using tiny spheres called granules. These are carefully arranged in decorative patterns and then permanently fused to the surface. The effect is wonderfully textured, detailed, and full of depth, almost like gold lacework.

At **PureJewels**, where we treasure heritage and artistry in equal measure, granulation holds a special place. It allows us to celebrate history while creating something truly timeless.

A Technique with Deep Roots

Granulation isn’t new. It dates back thousands of years and was widely used by ancient goldsmiths in Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and Etruria (modern-day Italy). Back then, jewellery wasn’t just about sparkle; it was about symbolism, storytelling, and skill.

Goldsmiths used granules to form patterns that symbolised eternity, fertility or the divine. That same tradition continues today, though it takes a modern twist when blended with contemporary design.

At PureJewels, we sometimes incorporate granulation into bespoke pieces, particularly in **22ct gold**, where the richness of the metal works beautifully with this technique.

How It’s Made

Creating granulated jewellery is a labour of love. First, the gold is drawn into fine wire or cut into tiny pieces, then melted down into uniform spheres. These granules are then placed by hand, one by one, onto the jewellery's surface to form a pattern, sometimes floral, sometimes geometric, sometimes completely abstract.

The whole piece is then heated just enough to fuse the granules in place, without melting the shape or surface. The result is seamless and elegant. No solder marks, no visible joins, just pure

craftsmanship.

Why It Matters

Granulation adds more than texture. It adds soul.

There’s something special about jewellery that’s made slowly and thoughtfully. Each granule takes intention. Every pattern is the result of hours of patience and precision. The result is a piece that doesn’t just shine, it speaks. And because granulated designs are often made by hand, no two are ever exactly alike.

These pieces are perfect for those who appreciate detail, history and artistry. They don’t shout for attention. They draw you in slowly.

Wearing and Caring for Granulated Jewellery

Granulated jewellery is surprisingly sturdy when well-made, though it does appreciate a little extra care. Store it away from harder items to protect the delicate detailing, and clean it gently with a soft cloth to keep its texture intact.

It’s often the kind of jewellery worn on special occasions or passed down as heirlooms, not just for how it looks, but for what it represents.

Final Thoughts

Granulation is a reminder that beauty often lies in the smallest details. In a world of high-shine finishes and fast production, it’s a quiet nod to tradition, to patience, and to the joy of handmade luxury.

At PureJewels, we love sharing these stories, not just through words, but through every piece we create. Whether you’re choosing a bangle inspired by ancient motifs or commissioning something truly bespoke, know that techniques like granulation are part of a much larger legacy, one that continues, thoughtfully and beautifully, in every detail.