

# Make a silver ring for 25 cents

by [target022](#) on March 9, 2009

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### **Intro: Make a silver ring for 25 cents**

Do you have a quarter from 1964 or before? If you do, it is made of silver. You can turn that coin into a nice silver band using a spoon, a drill, and a metal file. A quarter will yield a small ring, size ~7 or less. You can get a larger size but the ring will be very skinny. If you want a larger size ring, a Kennedy half dollar will work well. Again, anything 1964 and earlier will be silver.

Materials needed:

- Silver quarter
- spoon
- drill
- metal file

Optional but recommended

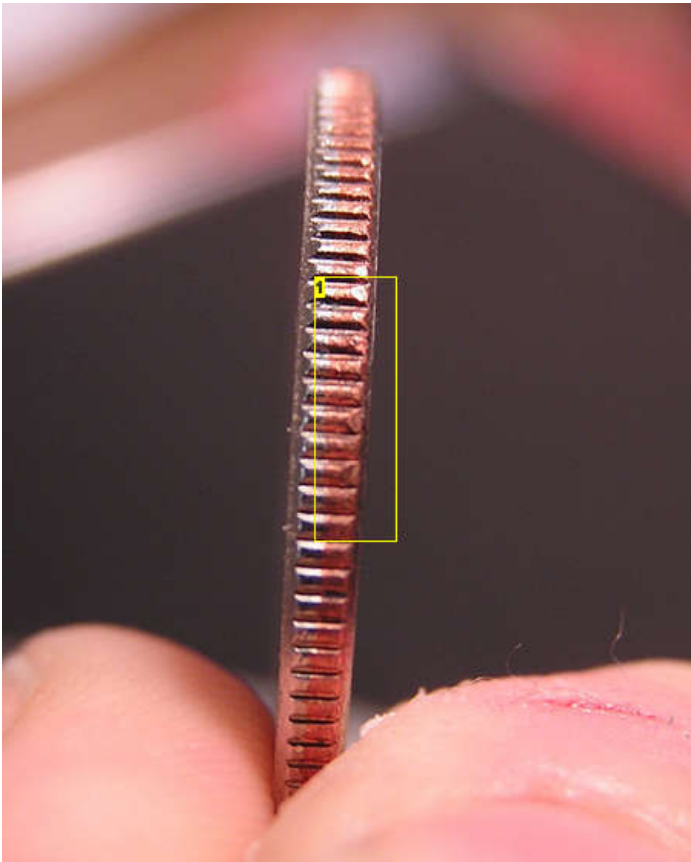
- Vice grips
- dremel



### **step 1: Find a silver quarter**

I was lucky enough to find two silver quarters in my change, but unless you are looking, you may not find one. Any quarter from 1964 and earlier should be silver. They are much lighter in color than newer quarters. I've read you can use the the sandwiched coins, but the metal is harder and it wouldn't be a silver ring. You can also buy one at a coin dealer for a couple dollars.

DO NOT buy an expensive silver coin for this, you will be destroying it.



#### Image Notes

1. Make sure you don't see any copper.

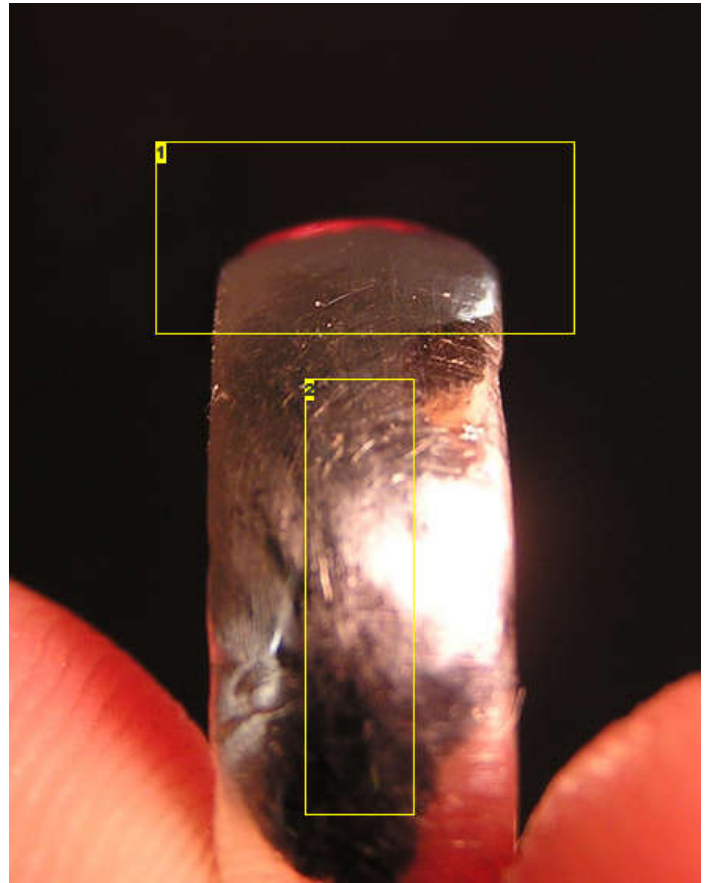
#### step 2: Start tapping

Now comes the tedious part. Hold the coin with one hand and tap the edge with a spoon. Turn the coin as you tap. Tap Tap Tap. Tap the ring in the center of the edge as much as possible. This will keep the edges of the ring from bending under.

**\*\*Do your tapping when no one is around, the tapping can get very annoying to others in the nearby vicinity.\*\***

The more you tap the faster the ring will form. I was a casual tapper, I tapped while I watched TV. My first ring took a year to finish. If you're the impatient type you can speed up the process by using a hammer and a hard surface. If you do this you risk bending or warping the coin and your finished ring will look crude and rough. The small taps of the spoon give a much smoother beveled look.





**Image Notes**

1. Notice the round edge. You get this by just using the spoon. If you wanted a flat edge you would have to set the quarter on something hard like an anvil while you tapped it.
2. Aim the spoon for the center of the edge.



**Image Notes**

1. Avoid tapping the edge to prevent it from bending under
2. As you tap, the coin gets smaller and the edge gets thicker

### step 3: Size your ring

As your ring starts to form you will need to determine the size you need.

This site will convert your ring size to inches or mm.

Tap the ring until you ring size is pretty close. You can be off by a 1-2 mm because there will be extra space in the center to play with.

When you reach about size 6 you can see the date and the words "Liberty", "Quarter Dollar", and "United States Of America" on the inside of the ring. This will be your only proof that you made this from a quarter.



### step 4: Make a hole

This part was the hardest for me because I didn't have anything to hold the ring while I drilled it. You need to hold the ring in something that won't scratch it. A vice or vice grips. What ever you use, make sure you pad it to protect the ring. You don't want all that tapping to go to waste.

I drilled a hole in the center followed by a bigger hole and so on. Drill out as much of the center as you can. A dremel will probably work well here. I didn't have one for my first ring. Once you have enough of the center out you can grind away the edges with a file or dremel.

At this point you can play around with the size. Try the ring on and grind away until it fits right.

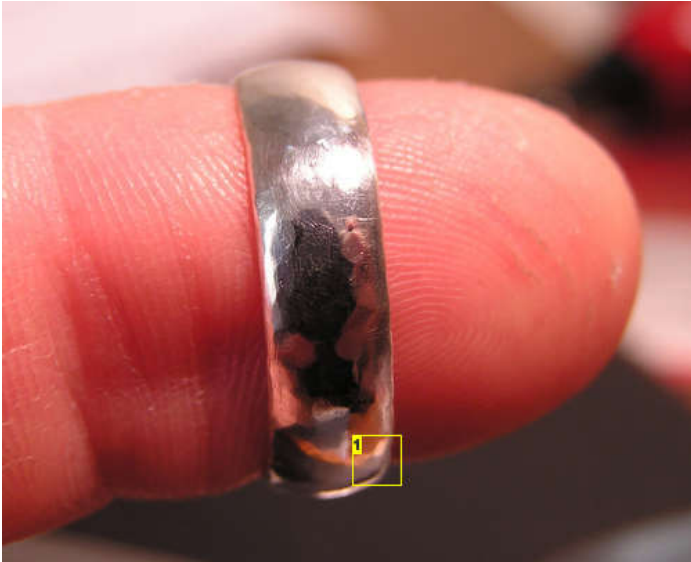


#### Image Notes

1. Play around with this space to get the size you want.

### step 5: Polish your new ring

I found that the small taps from the spoon gave a nice polished look already. You can use the dremel to clean out any rough areas inside the ring. If you opted for the quick and dirty hammer method you may need to polish the outside of the ring. I suggest several rounds of polishing, coarse --->fine grit. After that you are done.



#### Image Notes

1. This ring has been in use for a while so its a little scratched up.

### step 6: What to do with your new ring?

Wear it, propose marriage, sell it, give it away. Sadly you can never use it to play a video game or spend it like a quarter, but I think it's worth much more than 25 cents now.

I hope you give it a try. It's really very easy.



## Related Instructables



**Resin Jewelry Tutorial with John W. Golden Part 3** (video) by johnwgolden



**Resin Jewelry Tutorial with John W. Golden Part 2** (video) by johnwgolden



**Resin Jewelry Tutorial with John W. Golden part 1** (video) by johnwgolden



**Hex Coin Ring** by aaron7575



**A Simple Wire Ring** by totemic



**How to Make a Cyborg** by indymogul



**Bezel-Setting Tutorial** by MaggieJs



**Five-Cent Wedding Band** by dan

# Comments


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 **peace, love, art** says: Nov 16, 2009. 9:38 PM [REPLY](#)  
This is absolutely beautiful. I am definitely going to try this out.


---

 **TamarGirl** says: Nov 11, 2009. 5:44 PM [REPLY](#)  
How does it get hollow?


---

 **target022** says: Nov 12, 2009. 9:22 AM [REPLY](#)  
You need to drill the center out. Check out step 4.


---

 **Carpenoctem90hrs** says: May 16, 2009. 7:44 PM [REPLY](#)  
Hey, love your lble.  
I am working on one right now, and the outer edges seem almost sharp.  
I am not completely done working on it, but did you sand the edges of your ring?  
I plan to sand out the inside of it where there will be pressure on the finger, but I am not sure about the outside edge.  
Thanks!


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 **target022** says: May 17, 2009. 8:14 AM [REPLY](#)  
I sanded the edge a little to smooth it out, but not much. If I were you, I would get a piece of fine sandpaper and lay it on a flat surface. Then lightly move the ring back and forth across the paper until it's smooth. The finer the sandpaper the less scratches you'll get. Good luck.

---

 **Carpenoctem90hrs** says: Nov 6, 2009. 7:59 AM [REPLY](#)  
I ended up making a really nice one for my girlfriend out of a silver half dollar. It has a bit of a different look than your quarter rings, it is a bit chunkier.  
I will have to post a picture some day soon. Thanks for the idea!

---

 **PastTheVoid** says: Oct 21, 2009. 3:22 PM [REPLY](#)  
Do 1965 quarters have silver in them at all? The one I have with me right now has no sign of ridges, and it's faded all over.

---

 **woody558** says: Oct 25, 2009. 2:36 PM [REPLY](#)  
Quarters from 1965 have no silver.  
Half dollars from 1965-1970 have 40% silver.

---

 **SkateboardingForLife** says: Jun 16, 2009. 8:30 PM [REPLY](#)  
Dang it! i found a 1965 one


---

 **SkateboardingForLife** says: Jun 16, 2009. 8:51 PM [REPLY](#)  
i found 7 1965, 2 1966, and 4 1967, but no 1964 =(


---

 **PastTheVoid** says: Oct 21, 2009. 3:21 PM [REPLY](#)  
I found about ten 1965, three 1966, and eight 1967.

---

 **woody558** says: Oct 18, 2009. 4:32 PM [REPLY](#)  
I've been tapping for about an hour now and I am not noticing any difference in the edge. Any tips?

---

 **target022** says: Oct 18, 2009. 10:28 PM [REPLY](#)  
Tap harder, really hard. You should see a dent in the metal with each tap. Are you using a silver coin? If that's not working, try putting the coin on a hard surface.

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**wamj** says:  
Is there any british coins that would work

Oct 11, 2009. 10:57 AM [REPLY](#)



**andi456** says:  
What other coins would have silver in them?

Jul 5, 2009. 1:57 PM [REPLY](#)



**woody558** says:  
A 50 cent piece from 1964 or before will work.

Sep 27, 2009. 3:33 PM [REPLY](#)



**BKR1986** says:  
Great Instructable,  
I just tried it with a few variations. First off a hammer and a hard surface are your best friend, 100x faster. I started a ring and it took me 2 hrs from start to finish including buffing and polishing. I also used a standard 2006 issue Canadian quarter, it's a slightly stronger alloy then the older quarters so it'll take a little more work.  
Keep it up!

Sep 14, 2009. 10:22 AM [REPLY](#)



**Patented** says:  
A pic of your work would be very nice!

Sep 15, 2009. 3:17 PM [REPLY](#)



**BKR1986** says:  
Absolutely!  
Not the greatest picture. One issue I found using a canadian quarter is that there not steel the whole way through, there a copper mix and the copper has started turning my finger green :S

Sep 16, 2009. 7:49 AM [REPLY](#)



**BKR1986** says:  
Forgot to add the photos :-S

Sep 16, 2009. 7:53 AM [REPLY](#)



**britn** says:  
I used a double plated quarter it looks totally awesome got a copper band on the top and silver on the bottom, still working it though, I used a hammer because the spoon just was not hard enough, then after I used a spoon and it helped to smooth out the hammer marks

Aug 20, 2009. 8:42 PM [REPLY](#)



**IncrediblyCondensedBlackMatter** says:  
Updatexx: ive honed this process and ive made 3 rings at this point. firstly, a hammer is a VERY good idea for normal quarters, if you have the means to polish it. i just sand the outside with a coarse grit then tap it with a metal rod. ive also developed a really good technique for widening them and getting all the ridge in the middle gone. a tapered rod, a propane torch (makes it quicker but not necessary) and a jewelers hammer all have helped alot. thanks for making this, my friends love these rings!

Aug 15, 2009. 7:31 AM [REPLY](#)



**target022** says:  
Nice work. I always thought about using a metal rod for the middle of the ring. Where did you find a tapered one?

Aug 16, 2009. 8:01 AM [REPLY](#)



**bobt4** says:  
hey i found 2 1900 coins will they work?

Jun 30, 2009. 12:10 PM [REPLY](#)





**woody558** says:

You might want to look for something in the 50's or 60's because a 1900 coin is very rare.

Aug 13, 2009. 3:37 PM [REPLY](#)



**IncrediblyCondensedBlackMatter** says:

ive started with a new quarter. its VERY tough, and im not using a spoon, im using a hardened steel rod i salvaged from a printer a few years ago. its coming along very slow, but the tap marks are tiny, so i think itll look good. afer about 3 hours of tapping, ive gotten the edge widened to about 1/8" also, if you have these tools at your disposal, holding the coin with pliers and using a soldering iron to heat it make it a little softer, but you have to use the pliers to rotate it. i reccomend doing thisa on a smooth concrete floor. it makes it go a little faster, but make sure its VERY clean or the dirt will be pressed in....

Aug 10, 2009. 5:01 PM [REPLY](#)



**IncrediblyCondensedBlackMatter** says:

wonder how much a pawn shop would give you for it.... it legitimately from 1964 or before, its real silver, and its handmade.... gotta be worth more than 25 cents.....

Aug 9, 2009. 2:42 AM [REPLY](#)



**tanis9319** says:

please answer can you make me one i can never finde a 1964

May 18, 2009. 1:58 PM [REPLY](#)



**tjdrumman** says:

you can make one with a normal quarter looks cooler

Jul 29, 2009. 3:11 PM [REPLY](#)



**target022** says:

I don't have any silver quarters either. I've only ever found 2 in my life. Try it with a regular quarter. It will look copper instead of silver.

May 18, 2009. 2:43 PM [REPLY](#)



**tanis9319** says:

thanks i will try i might put a pic on here

May 19, 2009. 1:25 PM [REPLY](#)



**smooth\_ripple** says:

About 50 years ago my Father taught me to make a ring like this. He Explained that U.S. soldiers upon troop ships (during WWII) would stand near the metal railing on the edge of the ship and tap coins. The railing was handy because it gave them something to do while they were trying to avoid being seasick.

May 13, 2009. 11:07 AM [REPLY](#)



**digsretro** says:

A tip to finding a silver quarter if you have a whole ton of them, sift thru them with your hands, you will be able to 'hear' the sound of a silver one, it sounds very different when it hits the other quarters. Unless maybe I'm gifted that way but when I was younger our family owned coin laundromats so we used to sit around the table every night and count quarters, I could always hear whenever anyone had a silver one as it dropped into the coin tubes, hehe.

Jul 23, 2009. 12:08 PM [REPLY](#)



**PyroMaster007** says:

but how did he get the hole in the middle?

May 21, 2009. 12:56 PM [REPLY](#)



**smooth\_ripple** says:

The only method they had was to twist the tip of their bayonets in the center. The metal of the coins was soft and the bayonets were hard. For my ring, my Father first drilled a hole then enlarged it with a rat-tail file.

Jun 8, 2009. 7:33 PM [REPLY](#)



**PyroMaster007** says:

oh. i guess that makes sense. that'd take a loooonnnnnngggggg timmmmmme though.

Jun 15, 2009. 8:47 AM [REPLY](#)



**ex92** says:

thanks i already messed up so i`m gonna start over thanks

Jul 10, 2009. 9:18 AM [REPLY](#)



**bobt4** says:

i sell these for 20 to 30 bucks now....

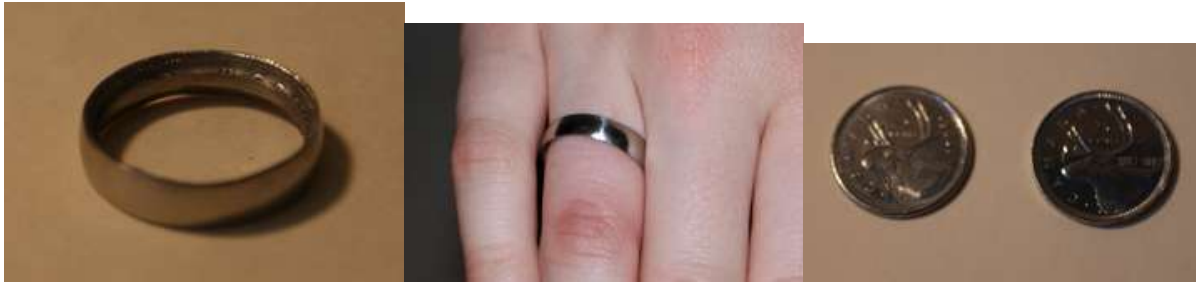
Jun 30, 2009. 1:26 PM [REPLY](#)

**bobt4** says:  
i have about 500 bucks in these rings(sold em)

Jun 30, 2009. 1:26 PM [REPLY](#)

**matthegamer463** says:  
I did this with a canadian silver quarter. Took about 2 hours to hammer, about 3 hours to drill and clean out the inside ( I didn't have the proper tools ) and about 1.5 hours to polish and clean up.

Jun 23, 2009. 6:38 AM [REPLY](#)



**target022** says:  
That looks great. What did you polish it with? It came out nice and smooth?

Jun 29, 2009. 9:20 AM [REPLY](#)

**matthegamer463** says:  
I stuck it on a socket bit, put it in my drill, and wrapped it in tape. Then i wedged the ring onto it, and ran the drill while holding it against sandpaper. After it was visibly smooth, I held the ring in my hand while running a dremel polishing wheel on it.

Jun 29, 2009. 6:05 PM [REPLY](#)

**Gage987** says:  
This brings a new meaning to cheap jewelry

Jun 29, 2009. 11:24 AM [REPLY](#)

**Gage987** says:  
would a newer coin just give it like a two color line to it

Jun 28, 2009. 10:23 PM [REPLY](#)

**target022** says:  
Yes, check out my post on May 15, theres a pic of a ring from a regular quarter. It looks mostly copper with silver edges.

Jun 29, 2009. 9:21 AM [REPLY](#)

**target022** says:  
I mean March 15.

Jun 29, 2009. 9:22 AM [REPLY](#)

**lynnhowlyn** says:  
Back in the dark ages (high school) a bunch of us used to make "tap rings" on the bus while traveling to swim meets and water polo games. Not sure how many rings were ever made - but the constant tapping sorta drove the coach and bus driver nuts.

Jun 18, 2009. 9:03 PM [REPLY](#)

**target022** says:  
Did an experiment today. Used a regular half dollar (copper center). Made this in about 2hrs. Spent 1hr tapping with a hammer on a concrete floor. Drilled out the center and cleaned it up a little with a dremel. It's roughly the same size as a quarter now, about a size 12 ring.

Mar 15, 2009. 5:40 PM [REPLY](#)





**SkateboardingForLife** says:  
these are nicely made, you used a half dollar? or did you mean quarter?

Jun 16, 2009. 8:55 PM [REPLY](#)



**target022** says:  
I used a half dollar, I just compared it to a quarter. If you look closely at the blue picture you can still read "Half Dollar" on the inside.

Jun 17, 2009. 9:51 PM [REPLY](#)

[view all 106 comments](#)