

Oven-baked jewelry adds variety to accessories

By MARY CONNELLY

It's a fashion accessory baked in the kitchen oven and then worn out on city streets.

Lorry Sidlow bakes plexiglass bracelets by the dozens in the kitchen oven of her Farmington Hills home.

Her plexiglass jewelry collection began as a mistake which occurred in time for the spring and summer fashion season when jean-wearers, dress-wearers and sportswear buyers wanted a light-hearted fashion accessory.

Now Mrs. Sidlow's home-baked

products are sold in four retail shops. Slim strips of plexiglass curved into bracelets and ringed with brightly painted flowers are the backbone of Mrs. Sidlow's plexiglass mistake-turned-hobby-turned-business venture.

And since introduced in retail outlets six weeks ago, the clear circles of colored flowers have been reordered.

THE BRACELETS are part of a hand-painted or monogrammed jewelry collection which includes earrings, belts and rings. The plexiglass

also has been shaped into engraved napkin rings and party name plates.

But sizing problems with rings and earrings and time demands have prompted Mrs. Sidlow to focus on the summer bracelets.

"It didn't start as a business," she said. "It became a business because I had something people wanted."

The plexiglass went into the oven in January as an accessory for a model boat being constructed by Mrs. Sidlow's husband, David.

BUT WHEN THE couple saw the pliable effect heat produced on plexiglass, imaginative shapes were bent into constructive uses.

Inclined to wear very little jewelry other than a wedding band, Mrs. Sidlow said the bracelets were designed to meet her small accessorizing needs.

A successful look, she said, is achieved by offsetting the plexiglass bracelets with bright enamel bangles or gold bands.

"I had a few little dresses I wanted specific colors for," Mrs. Sidlow said, explaining the origin of the painted bracelets. "Then the whole thing ballooned."

FROM A HOBBY which garnered attention from relatives and friends,

the pieces have become salable items. The bracelets are sold at Corey's Jewel Box, The Gift Gallery, Nador's and J. L. Hudson's Nice Girl Like You shop.



Oven-baked napkin rings



Lorry Sidlow dabs on flowers

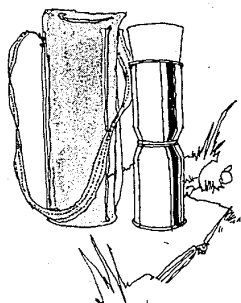
After the plexiglass is baked and bent to shape, the strips are dabbed with flowers of acrylic paint. Letters for specially ordered engraved or monogrammed pieces are etched by a plastic engraver and filled with paint by Mrs. Sidlow.

One of Mrs. Sidlow's two preschool age children has joined in the venture by stripping paper backing from hundreds of plexiglass cuttings.

THE BUSINESS is a side job for Mrs. Sidlow and most of her work orders are filled during the evening hours.

But after the summer season for flowered bracelets has peaked, she expects to continue the line of plexiglass offerings by devising holiday-themed jewelry motifs and increasing napkin ring and name plate production.

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YMCA sets new classes

The South Oakland YMCA, 1016 West Eleven Mile Road, Royal Oak, will offer women's fitness classes from 9:15 to 10 a.m. beginning Monday. The classes will be held Monday through Thursday for eight weeks. The classes include warm-up exercises and muscular and flexibility exercises geared for women. Participants

will also go through a series of cardiovascular exercises including jogging, walking and simple dancing. The classes end with a series of cool-down exercises.

Babysitting services are available during the classes. For information contact the YMCA, 547-0030.

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