

# Cumulus Clouds Pin

Sterling silver, rare earth magnets

Dimensions: 55 mm x 35 mm x 5 mm

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Cumulus Clouds Pin

Image © Green Vale Gallery

## Inspiration:

### *Professor Steven Sherwood*

Steven Sherwood researches atmospheric physics and its effects on climate. This inspired a pin in the form of cumulus clouds, which some of his work has focused on. "Every cloud has a silver lining" - these clouds are silver all the way through. Cloud-like texture on the silver was achieved by making the material go through a change of state due to heat transfer, as water does between ocean and atmosphere. Signifying new approaches to problem-solving, instead of a traditional pin fitting, the piece is fastened with magnets, whose strength of interaction was investigated as part of the making process.

## Materials:

Sterling silver, rare earth magnets.

## Method:

Cloud shapes were sawn from sterling silver sheet. These forms were then reticulated - heated with a flame until the surface just became liquid. When the metal resolidifies, it forms irregular surfaces and edges. The cloud shapes were soldered together. Calculations and experiments were used to establish the viability of using magnets instead of a traditional pin fastening. A bezel to hold a magnet in position was made from a strip of silver and soldered to the cloud shapes. With the magnet dropped into position, the top of the bezel wall was forced over the edge of the magnet.

## Results:

This piece reinforces that a small change in variables can give a noticeable change in results, here in the texture achieved on a silver surface. The cloud form calls to mind the increasing practice of computing "in the cloud".

Box made from salvaged Australian native timbers by Gary Field for Labpunk and AIP Congress 2014.

(Red Cedar lid and Black Bean body)