

TIPS FOR THE MOS PIN DESIGN CONTEST

All previous Conference Pins can be seen at the MOS Web Page:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/pins1.html>

Artists should bear in mind that the conference pins are cloisonné, and thus each color change is bordered by a brass strip. There can be no shading in a cloisonné pin because of this. Since there is a brass strip between each color, the pin can't have small or narrow bits of color - the brass strips would take up too much room. That's why **simple, uncluttered designs work best for cloisonné pins.**

The outline of the pins is defined by a brass strip.

Notice how each color is separated from its neighbor by a brass strip.



Original Design

Finished Pin

“MOS” and “2005” are in brass on the finished pin.

Sometimes colors come out slightly different due to the enameling process.

The finished pin will be about the size of a quarter (one-and-one-eighth inches in its largest dimension). **Simple, uncluttered designs are best.** If you have the ability, it is worthwhile to scan your design into a computer and print it out at pin size. This will help you see how your design looks at that size, which is the size the judges will see in when they judge.

Along these lines, artists would do well to select a bird species, or a portion of a bird, which has simple, bold patterns. Study the previous contest winners to see how well this approach translates to pins.

A simple background (of colors that contrast with the bird) usually makes the bird stand out better than does a cluttered background.

Artists needn't depict the entire bird - many winning designs featured only part of a bird. However, the species must always be readily identifiable.

The overall shape of the design doesn't matter; the pin company can manufacture a pin in almost any shape. (The borders of the design should be obvious.)

Submissions must be “finished artwork,” with the bird and other items well executed. Artists shouldn't submit a rough sketch and expect the judges or the pin company to finish the design.

Artists should understand that if they don't win it only means that the judges found another design more to their liking. In another year their design might have been the stand-out favorite. One year we had three absolutely smashing designs to choose from; but only one could win. The other two designs were still wonderful.

If an artist has a really great design and it doesn't win, they should consider re-submitting it again in the future, with the year portion updated. It could very well win then.

Artists may submit more than one entry.