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Brass Stylistics by Lawrence Halter

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There are countless wannabes in DIY home decorating affairs and countless more, especially among first time homeowners who would like the sort of nouveau riche look theyâ€™ve been dreaming about from glossy glamour magazines. The polished, glistening doorknobs, the lacquered chandeliers, and the sparkling, matte-gold faucets quite often, theyâ€™re not solid gold. Theyâ€™re made from zinc-copper alloys, or brass.

Brass has been use since early civilization, and by the 6th and 7th century AD, 90% of copper alloy artifacts from Egypt were made of brass. Brass shares many properties with bronze, chief among them is its high tolerance against corrosion (except for ammonia in the atmosphere), although brass is reported to possess higher malleability than bronze. The relatively low melting point of brass also makes brass an easier material to cast.

Through the ages, metal workers in art and industry have found applications for brass in every aspect of human living. In music, brass became the prime material for musical instruments such as cymbals and woodwind instruments for the distinct acoustical aural sound that the metal alloy produces.

In the medical field, brass became the choice for hospital fixtures knobs, handles, instruments, and rails all made of brass or copper alloys when it was found that the copper in brass was germicidal. Dangerous bacteria such as MRSA and Clostridium difficile persist on plastics and other surfaces, while they are found to wither and die on brass surfaces. Once exposed to copper alloys, extensive damage on the bacteriaâ€™s structural membrane was observed.

Today, brass rods are used for most lightning rods in buildings. Depending on the varying proportions of copper and zinc, brass can be molded allowing for hard or soft brasses. High-quality brass is in high demand among makers of neutral links, which connects to the ground system and protects the buildingâ€™s electrical system from overloading and short-circuiting.

A brass rod can be cut, and its end fashioned into ornate brass gold club heads. Brass rod manufacturers also promote the material for art nouveau placements in window panes and gates. Depending on size and length, brass rods are used for applications in RC cars, chimes, dioramas and school projects, building tools and supplies, boats and trains.

As testament to brassâ€™ malleability and adaptability to advance technological process, brass rod suppliers feature solid brass that can be cut to any desired length which makes brass rod perfect for scratch builders, modelers, machine shop craftsmen, hobbyists, and architects. For more information about brass, visit oldcopper.org and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brass.

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