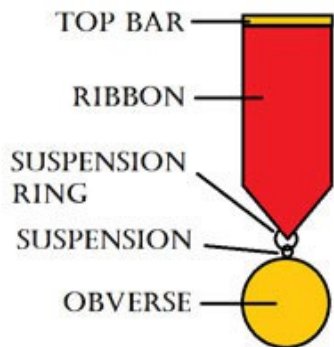


Standard Award Format

So, you want to make your own awards, either to give to your own people or to present at MicroCon? Great! Here are some recommendations to help create a standard look for your awards - you can disregard them, but standardized awards are easier to display or wear with awards from other micronations.

First, the award itself. Recall from our previous literature that an award is made up of two components, the ribbon, and the medal proper, sometimes (flippantly) referred to as the “gong” (see below).

MEDAL TAXONOMY



NOT SHOWN: BROOCH, REVERSE FACE

The ribbon should be made of grosgrain, 1.5” or 38mm wide - this can generally be found at any well-stocked craft store in a variety of colours and patterns. You can also use satin ribbon,

but some adhesives that work well with grosgrain are problematic with satin. We recommend either solid colors or simple vertical stripes – not polka dots or plaid. Cutting the ribbon is made easier using a “ribbon cutter” - a battery-operated device that uses a hot wire to melt through the ribbon.

The medal should be approximately the same width as the ribbon – being over or under by a quarter inch (5mm) or so shouldn’t matter. It should be metal or otherwise durable – while hopefully it won’t get bashed, it could happen.

The medal and ribbon together should have a total length of about 3.25” or 83mm.

While it's possible to fold and manipulate the ribbon through the suspension ring above the medal, we find that it's much quicker and easier to use a “ribbon clamp” - insert the end of the ribbon into the ribbon clamp and gently squeeze the jaws of the clamp closed. (Padded pliers help here.) Make sure that the medal, the ribbon clamp, and any other forward-facing metal parts are the same colour (i.e., gold, silver, or bronze) - mixing the metals tends to look odd.

The brooch (the bit that attaches it to your shirt) can be either a brooch-type pin or a pair of “butterfly clutch” tie tack style pin backs. Either way, the brooch should be securely glued to the

back of the medal with a strong adhesive such as E6000.

Accoutrements and Accessories

If you’re going to present medals to others, we recommend that you include the following “extra bits” where possible, to ensure the award is a treasured souvenir for years to come:

1. An additional 12” (30cm) of ribbon, for several reasons:
 - In case repairs are required in the future;
 - In case the recipient wishes to “court mount” their decorations; or
 - In case the recipient wants to add the ribbon itself to a “ribbon bar”.
2. Wherever possible, include a miniature of the award, half-size (3/4” or 19mm ribbon) with a total length (ribbon and medal) of about 57mm (2.25”).
3. Include a presentation box or other sturdy storage container, ideally with information such as the award name, presentation date, and presenter.
4. A certificate, suitable for framing, with the necessary information (who, what, when, why).

Presenting the Award

Obviously the exact circumstances of

presentation will vary. However, whether it's being presented at the gala dinner at MicroCon, or it's an on-the-spot award to one of your citizens for good deeds, or anything in between, you should still try to make the occasion something for the recipient to remember.

First, put the award in your left hand, and call for the attention of those around you. (Having the award on a small pillow can be a nice touch, but that's not always possible.)

Next, call forth the recipient. When they come to join you, state what you're awarding them, and why. It's usually an opportunity to say good things about the recipient.

Reach out with your right hand to shake their hand, while presenting the award with the left hand. This is the ideal moment for a "photo op" - shaking hands and transferring the award. After the photo op, IF the recipient is comfortable, they may let you pin the award to their shirt or jacket. Try not to pierce anything!

Finally, after the presentation, you can give them the other "accoutrements" (any spare ribbon, miniature medals, certificate, etc., as mentioned previously) that might accompany the award. (And, of course, make sure they get a copy of the presentation photo, if one was taken.)

About MEDALS

The Microphaleristic Educational Archive and Library of Slabovia (MEDALS) was founded in 2018 by HRM King George 2.0 of Slabovia.

The archive and library exist to document for future generations the diversity and splendour of medals, orders, and other decorations issued by various micronations. The documented collection can be found online at <http://www.microphalerist.com>, or the Board of Directors may be contacted by e-mail at medals@slabovia.com

Contributions

MEDALS welcomes contributions of phaleristic specimens from all micronations!

Physical specimens should be carefully wrapped and shipped with appropriate documentation (see below) to:

George Bragg
PO Box 99900 KA 614 655
RPO Parkwoods Plaza
Don Mills Ontario Canada M3A 0A3

Virtual specimens (i.e. photos) can be sent via e-mail to medals@slabovia.com with the following information:

- The name of your micronation and a link to its official website if any
- Pictures of the front and back of the award (taken with a white background)
- The name of the award
- A short paragraph outlining the awarding criteria and any other special features of the award

(If sending via e-mail, please only document one decoration per e-mail.)

Please note that the archive only documents awards presented in the physical world.

Recommendations for the standardization of awards



An educational pamphlet from the Microphaleristic Educational Archive and Library of Slabovia (MEDALS)

