

Thai Buddha Metal Protection Pendants

from various sources, edited by Bob Haddad

Almost every Thai Buddhist has at least one Thai amulet or metal pendant. Metal pendants are usually worn around the neck as a necklace, on a metal chain or a cloth string. Often, metal pendants are placed in protective cases made of metal and glass or plastic, and are worn on the neck with a chain or string. They may also be carried with a clip in a shirt pocket (close to the heart) and they may also be displayed on a personal altar. The price of an amulet depends on its appearance, place of manufacture, its maker, its age, and its presumed magic protective powers. Medals made of brass or bronze can be carefully cleaned with a metal cleaner and then rinsed in soapy water to remove any polish residue. Then they should be dried thoroughly and gently buffed with a soft cloth.

Thai Buddha pendants are usually made of brass, bronze, or a combination of metals. They may also be made of gold or silver. Pendants usually range in size from 2 x 1.5 cm to 4 x 3.5 cm. Medallions and clay or plaster amulets help to fund a particular temple's activities, and may be bought at temples and amulet markets throughout Thailand. When given by or blessed by a monk, amulets are no longer considered a "gift", but rather a tool to enhance luck and happiness in different aspects of life. Thai people often use amulets with the intent to improve their marriage, wealth, health, love and personal relationships.



Metal amulets portray an image of the Buddha on one side, and an inscription, mantra or another image on the other side. Sometimes the other side may display an image of a famous monk (often deceased) from a certain part of Thailand, or even an image of the monk who designed and made the amulets, or the temple where it was made. After amulets are made, the maker will then ask the monks who live in temples or monks from other temples to join together to chant, pray and bless the amulets before they are given to people or sold by the temple to the general public to raise funds for temple maintenance.

Thai Buddhist tradition observes these protocols regarding amulets and tablets:

- Do not wear Buddhist amulets below the waist. Instead, wear them on the neck or carry them in a shirt pocket. above the waist.
- Do not keep a Buddhist amulet (or any image of the Buddha) in a bedroom if you expect to engage in sex in that room.
- Remove them when bathing.

* Say a quiet prayer before you wear an amulet and when you remove one from your body. *Namo tassa bhagavato arahato samma sambuddhassa*

