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LEISURE ARTS & CULTURE

The Game-Changing Furniture That's Made by Freezing

British designer Paul Cocksedge found a way to bond metals by subjecting them to super-low temperatures.



"Freeze," an exhibition of new work by the London-based designer [Paul Cocksedge](#), opens Thursday at the New York gallery [Friedman Benda](#).

Its title refers to a group of pieces in the show—tables, a desk, benches, and a chair—made of metals that wouldn't normally adhere in nature, but which Cocksedge has bonded through freezing. For example, the aluminum, steel, brass and copper Freeze Ring Table, shown here, is built from the center outward by freezing each ring using liquid nitrogen, then adding them, one by one, to those already in place. As the metal heats up over many hours, it expands a mere 2000th of an inch, but that's enough to permanently bond it to its neighbor.

Cocksedge, whose innovative designs include everything from a light made of Styrofoam coffee cups to "invisible" bookends, is fascinated by the ways the forces of nature, with minimal interference, shape materials. "The invisible is what makes everything here," he says. If these pieces look expensive, they are; prices range from \$32,000 to \$220,000, reflecting their extreme labor-intensiveness. "It's the opposite of trying to find efficiencies in making," Cocksedge explains. "It's about time—about trying to create the purest idea."

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