

Marbled Ring

The marbled pattern is always different and one of a kind. This traditional technique is presented in a modern style square ring.



Shrinkage reference: Increase the desired size of the ring by 2 sizes when molding and prior to firing. After firing and shrinkage, ring will be correct size.

Materials Used

- Art Clay Silver Clay Type 14g (7 gm for ring shank and 7 gm for marbling)
- Art Clay Copper 15g

Tools

- Ruler
- Pencil
- Wet wipes

*Other required tools --- Basic tools, tools for ring making.

Step by step guide



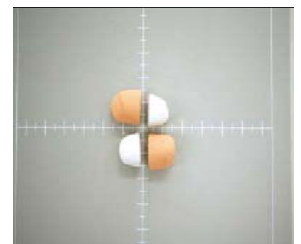
1. Make a flat ring with 7g of ACS 16mm wide, and 0.5mm thick. (*To avoid drying, keep any leftover clay in plastic wrap.)



2. Moisten the ring with wet wipes, and keep it moist by covering/rolling the ring with plastic wrap.



3. Knead 7g of ACS with any leftover clay from Step 1, and knead 15g of ACC separately in each plastic wrap until they become the same softness.



4. Mold them into a barrel shape, and cut in half. Place ACS and ACC side by side as in the picture.



5. Keep the position of the clay, and stick them together in a plastic wrap. Then, flatten the clay with finger.



6. Blend the clay by folding it over 3-5 times.



7. Make a ball with the blended clay, and make a cane in approx. 60mm long.



8. Moisten the surface of the ACS flat ring you made in step 2, and wrap the blended clay around it, making 4 corners for the ring.



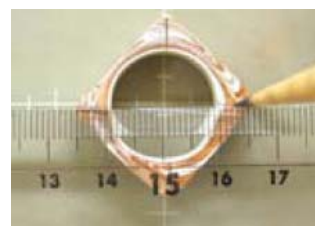
9. Press all 4 sides of the ring gently on a cooking sheet to make a flat surface.



10. Cut off any excess clay on the sides of the ring with a steel scraper by rolling on the wooden mandrel, and dry.



11. Apply a half-round medium fine file (large), and sandpaper (#320) on the sides of the ring to make a flat surface. (See P.29 for dimensional view of finished project)



12. Place the ring on the center of a work surface which has horizontal and vertical guidelines, and mark lines on the 4 corners with a pencil.



13. Draw design guidelines with a pencil for filing the 4 corners.



14. Follow the design guidelines, apply a half-round medium fine file (large), and sponge sanding pad (#320-600) on the surface of the ring.



15. Pre-fire, and reduce fire the piece. Tap with a plastic mallet to adjust any deformations. Apply sandpaper (#320 & #600) to the sides and surface of the ring.



16. Mirror finish with a polishing cloth and silver polish.

Firing Schedule

1. Place piece on open kiln shelf in room temperature kiln and fire at full ramp to 842 degrees F. for no hold. Remove immediately and allow kiln to return to room temperature (or use another, room temperature kiln).
2. Place activated coconut carbon approximately 30mm deep in stainless steel container. Place no more than 4 rings in single layer 5mm from sides of container and 5mm from each other. Cover with 10mm additional carbon and cover the container. Place on fiber shelf and ramp as quickly as possible to 1400 degrees F. Hold for 4 hours and allow to cool to room temperature before removing.

Tips for Success

1. Make sure the consistency of both the silver and copper clays are the same. Both should be very soft.
2. The more you mix the two clays together the more marbled the pattern.
3. Make the marbled log slightly shorter than the circumference you need around the silver shank on the mandrel so you have to stretch the clay to connect the two ends. Making it too long will result in a ring that may sag on the mandrel and be too large.
4. Make sure to moisten the silver shank before applying the marbled clay. It is imperative that the two layers attach to avoid separating during firing.
5. Do not file the dried ring too thin on any side as this may cause the ring to split during firing.
6. During the open shelf initial firing, make sure that all copper in the piece appears black and that no brown remains. If it does, refire once to 842 F. then remove.
7. If there are small separations in any layers, place ring on mandrel and tap with plastic or rawhide hammer. Small divots or cracks can also be pasted with copper or oil paste and fired as necessary. If only repairing with Art Clay Oil Paste, fire the initial, open shelf firing as above, then place in carbon as described and fire to 1400 F. for at least 1 hour.