

Copper Inlay Pendant Instructions

Materials

20-25 grams Art Clay copper clay
7 grams Art Clay silver Slow Dry clay
2 mm and 1mm slats
Acrylic roller
Coffee stirrer (for pendant hole)
Round, square or heart shaped cookie cutter
2 lbs. activated coconut carbon
2.5" tall stainless steel firing pan with lid
Non stick work surface
Olive oil

Sanding pads
Paint brush
Plastic wrap and/or
small recloseable bag
Stamp or texture with
design 1mm deep
Electric kiln
Kiln tongs or spatula
Kiln shelves
Dehydrator, hair dryer or coffee mug warmer



Procedure

1. Using slightly oiled roller and 2mm slats, roll out NO MORE than ½ of the Art Clay copper clay package. Wrap remainder of clay in plastic wrap and then again in plastic wrap or recloseable bag and seal tightly.
2. Oil the texture or stamp well with the paintbrush and place the rolled out clay on top. Place the 1mm slats on either side of the clay and roll the clay again on top of the texture mat or stamp.
3. Turn the texture mat or stamp upside down and bend to release the impressed copper clay. Lay it design-side up on the non-stick work surface.
4. Take the cookie cutter of your choice and cut out a shape no more than 2" on any one side. Remove the unused portion of copper clay and combine with remaining clay.
5. Make a hole, about 1/8" from the top of the piece, with the coffee stirrer.
6. Dry the piece thoroughly, at least 45 minutes, using a food dehydrator, hair dryer, coffee mug warmer, or let it dry naturally at least 24 hours.
7. Open the 7gm package of Art Clay silver clay and place it between 2 layers of plastic film along with 3 drops of water. Knead the water into the clay to make a very thick paste.
8. Place a very small amount of olive oil on your fingers and begin to take small amounts of the clay/paste and carefully push the clay into the recessed areas of the design. Make sure that the clay/paste reaches all the areas and that no air is trapped. Continue to add silver paste until the design pattern is hidden and dry.
9. Take the sanding pad labeled "fine" and sand the surface of the piece until the design pattern reappears. Repeat with "superfine" and "ultrafine" pads. There should be no cracks or separations between the copper clay and silver clay. Add paste as necessary if there are spaces and dry again.

Firing—This is a two-step process. Follow all directions exactly

1. Place the dried piece on a fiber shelf and place into the kiln. Program the kiln to ramp at the fastest speed to 450 C./842 F. with NO HOLD. Use tongs and a glove to take the shelf out immediately on finishing the firing. The piece should be black where there is copper. If it is still brown, repeat this step.
2. When the kiln has cooled to room temperature, fill the stainless steel pan with 1 inch of coconut carbon. Place the dried copper and silver piece on its side on top of the carbon and add more carbon to cover the piece and ½" more. Place the lid on the pan and make sure that the lid doesn't touch the piece.
3. Place the pan into the kiln and center it so it does not touch the back or sides and is at least 1" from the front of the kiln.
4. Ramp the kiln as fast as it will go to 760 C./1400 F. and hold for 4 hours. Allow the kiln to cool to room temperature before removing the pan.

Finishing

1. Sand the surface of the pendant with the "fine" sandpaper and water until very smooth. Then sand with the "superfine" and "ultrafine" sandpapers, each using water to keep the pads and your piece clean.
2. Rinse the piece and dry thoroughly. Allow the copper to patina naturally, or use Baldwin's Patina to darken it and increase the contrast between the copper and the silver.