



Bezels and Bails by syndee holt

So you have created a fantastic pendant – now how do you attach it to the necklace? I'm going to show you a couple of easy ways to make a dramatic and ultra-functional bezel and bail to finish your amazing piece.

Supplies:

Sculpey Premo! or Souffle clay to match your pendant (or a contrast!)

Sculpey Clay Conditioning Machine

Sculpey Super Slicer

Sculpey Nested Circle Cutters

Sculpey Style n' Detail tools (optional to add dot detail like dot pendant)

Have on Hand:

Extruder with medium round dies

Instant glue

Index Cards or paper to work on

Chains or cords to finish your pendant

Jewelry findings and tools

Getting Started

Polymer clay may stain. CLAY MAY DAMAGE UNPROTECTED FURNITURE OR FINISHED SURFACES. DO NOT USE polymer clay on unprotected surfaces. We recommend working on the Sculpey clay mat, wax paper, metal baking sheet, or disposable foil. Start with clean hands and work surface area. Knead clay until soft and smooth. For best results, clean your hands in between colors. Shape clay, pressing pieces together firmly. Bake on oven-proof glass or metal surface at 275°F (130 °C) for 30 minutes per ¼" (6 mm) thickness. For best baking results, use an oven thermometer. DO NOT USE MICROWAVE OVEN. DO NOT EXCEED THE ABOVE TEMPERATURE OR RECOMMENDED BAKING TIME. Wash hands after use. Baking should be completed by an adult.

Begin by preheating oven to 275 °F (130 °C). Test temperature with oven thermometer for perfectly cured clay. For best results, condition all clay by running it through the Clay Conditioning Machine for several passes on the widest setting. Fold the clay in half after each pass and insert the fold side into the rollers first.



The Jan Montarse Easy Back

This bail gives the illusion that your pendant is floating on the stringing material. This is a great bail for curved pendants, but will also work on flat pieces as well. I like to use the leftover clay pieces from my pendant to create this Easy Back, but using a clay to match the back works as well!

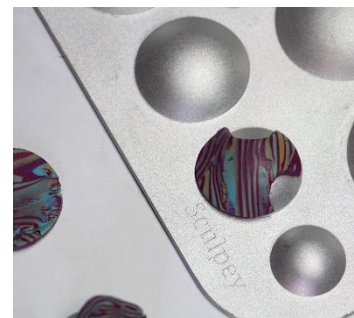


Step 1:

Roll the selected clay out on about #2 on your Clay Conditioning Machine. Select the circle cutter that is about 2 sizes smaller than your pendant. Cut out a circle of the clay. Use the smallest circle cutter to cut 2 half-moons out at the BOTTOM of the circle as shown.

Step 2:

Place the completed bail on the smallest mound it will fit on the Sculpey Hollow Bead Maker and bake according to the directions above. The size of the half-moons and the angle created by the Hollow Bead Maker will determine how big the holes for your stringing material will be.



Step 3:

Once the JM Easy Back is baked and cooled, apply instant glue to the small top edge and the bottom edge of the inside of the JM Easy Back. Do NOT apply glue to the half-moons! I prefer to use tweezers to position the Easy Back on the pendant. Position with the small piece of the JM Easy Back at the top center of the back of your pendant.

Step 4:

Once the instant glue has dried, just thread your stringing material through the holes of the Easy Back and complete your necklace!



Creating a Fancy Bezel and Bail

When you have created a beautiful pendant and you want to finish the edges, this is a great way with a “secret” trick with the bail.

Step 1:

Set your baked pendant on a #3 sheet of clay in the color you have selected for the bezel. Use a cutter or craft knife to cut out a backing that is just slightly larger than the pendant as shown.



Step 2:

Extrude two 12 inch lengths of the SAME color using the medium (or medium small) round die. Wrap the first length around the edge of the pendant so that the extruded clay overlaps at the TOP of the pendant.

Step 3:

Carefully cut the cord, trying not to cut all the way through the backing sheet of clay. Once the pieces are cut and the excess removed, but another small piece from one side and position the extruded clay around the pendant and GENTLY press into place. Do NOT worry about the seam in the clay at the top of the pendant. Set the extra pieces of extruded clay aside to create the bail later.



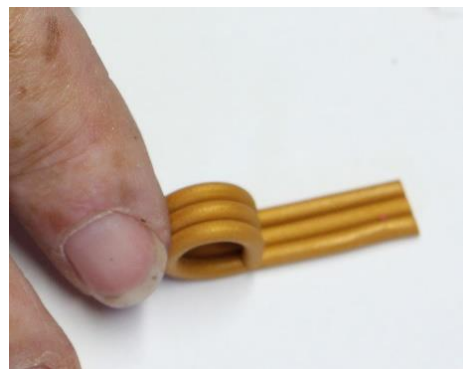


Step 4:

Repeat with the second piece of extruded clay, adding it to the outside of the first ring of extruded clay and cut at the top again. Press gently into place and carefully move the pendant to the baking sheet.

Step 5:

Using the remaining pieces of extruded clay, cut 3 pieces about 2 to 2-1/2 inches in length. Gently stroke them to press them together and trim the ends to straighten them. Curl one end up so that the ends just touch the flat portion. Set this piece on the baking sheet in this position (coil up). Bake the pendant and bail as directed above.



Step 6:

Once the clay has baked and cooled, hold the flat end of the bail and gently pop the curved end from the bail. Slide this curved piece up and over the extruded rings to cover the seams at the top. (See finished pendant at top)

Step 7:

Add a couple of drops of instant glue to the straight pieces extending down the back of the pendant to hold the bail in place. If desired, add a drop of instant glue to a toothpick and carefully apply to the curved ends on the top of the pendant.

