

FIRING ART CLAY SILVER WITH A GAS STOVETOP



To ensure proper and safe firing, read this instruction sheet **THOROUGHLY** before firing!

1. Dry Completely

The piece must be completely dry before firing. Art Clay will dry naturally if it is left out for over 24 hours. Pieces can also be dried with a hot-air-dryer.



*When using a hot-air-dryer, place it close to the piece to ensure complete drying. Be careful not to touch the piece or get close enough to blow the piece away.

If the piece has been dried with heat you can place the piece on a dark or reflective piece of stainless steel, glass or plastic. After 10 to 20 seconds lift up the piece. If there is no water vapor, the piece should be dry.



If the piece is not completely dry it may break or pop during firing. It is very dangerous to fire non-dried pieces. Make sure the piece is completely dry!

2. Draw an outline of the unfired piece



Size Limitations

Clay Volume: Up to 25g

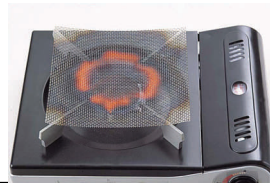
Dimensions:

no larger than a U.S. Silver Dollar (30.61mm diameter x 2.15mm thickness)

Carefully place your pre-fired piece on a piece of paper and trace around it with a pen or pencil. You will compare the post-fired piece with this outline to ensure proper firing has occurred.

3. Find the hottest part of the net

Place the stainless steel net on the center of the gas stovetop to ensure balance. Turn on the stove to determine the most red-hot portion of the net. (Stainless steel nets can be purchased at Art Clay World)



4. Place the piece on the stainless steel net

After determining the portion of the stainless steel net that is the most red, turn off the stovetop. Place the unfired piece on the section of the stainless steel net that was the brightest red using a pair of tweezers.



5. Make sure your piece can be fired

Items that cannot be fired:

projects made over cork clay, paper clay, or large quantities of organic material, as well as projects that include glass, porcelain, ceramic, natural gemstones, or other heat sensitive materials. Never fire plastic as it creates toxic fumes. Stand-alone pieces of Art Clay Paper Type cannot be fired with the gas stovetop.

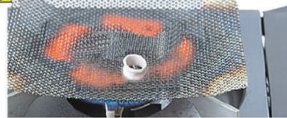
Items that can be fired:

pure silver findings, laboratory created CZ 's , and small appliqué pieces of Paper Type that have been adhered to a larger work. Leaves with paste that do not exceed the maximum size can be fired.

6. Firing process

Turn on the gas stovetop. The initial heat will cause the binder to burn away creating a small flame for a few seconds. The piece will begin turning a pink or peach color. Fire the piece according to the chart in step 7 once it has reached a peach color.

⚠ Begin timing after the piece turns color.



7. Firing time

Begin timing once the piece begins glowing a pink or peach color from the inside. Fire the piece according to the chart once it has reached the peach color.

Clay Volume / Firing Time

Up to 5g	1 - 1.5min.
6g - 15g	1.5 - 2.5min.
16g - 25g	2.5 - 5min.

8. Cool piece in water

The piece may stick to the stainless steel net when it is still hot. To avoid injury, do not try to pick up the piece immediately after firing. After the piece has cooled for at least 20 minutes, pick it up with a pair of metal tweezers and completely submerge it in a basin of water. ***Only pieces composed entirely of Art Clay should be quenched. Do not quench pieces with other materials imbedded into the clay.**



9. Check the size of the fired piece

After the piece is cooled and dry, place it on the piece of paper with the outline of the pre-fired piece. If you do not visually see around 10% shrinkage, the piece may not be successfully fired. Follow steps 5 through 8 to ensure the piece is completely fired.



Additional Tips for Success:

- Do not use supporting material, such as fiber blanket, during firing. Using such material will block the heat, resulting in incomplete firing.
- You cannot fire hollow objects containing combustible material such as cork clay or paper clay with a gas stovetop. Do not fire heat sensitive materials with a gas stovetop.
- You cannot fire Art Clay Gold with a gas stovetop because it will not reach the applicable temperature.
- When firing Art Clay Silver Slow Dry or thick pieces, make sure they are completely dry.
- Dimming the lights may help you see the color of the piece during firing.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q:** Is there a difference in shrinkage when firing with a gas stovetop, compared to firing with a torch or an electric kiln?
- A:** There should be no difference if the piece has been properly fired. The amount of shrinkage may vary slightly, depending on the type of stovetop and the volume of Art Clay Silver.
- Q:** Is it possible to fire Art Clay Silver too long?
- A:** As long as the piece does not turn red or begin to melt, you cannot fire Art Clay too long.
- Q:** Can a gas stovetop reach the appropriate temperature for firing Art Clay Silver?
- A:** Yes, as long as the stovetop is capable of generating 2.9kW (2900 calories) and the directions are followed properly.
- Q:** Once my piece is fired can I add more clay and re-fire the piece?
- A:** A fired, finished piece can be added to and fired over and over again. Remember, the fired clay will not shrink, but the added clay will.

Art Clay World USA

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