

Copper and Pearl Calla Lily Pendant

Materials:

20g Art Clay™ Copper Clay

Half-drilled pearl (s) and jeweler's epoxy

14 or 16 gauge pure copper wire and wire cutters

Standard metal clay tools

1.5-1.75 inch circle template or cutter

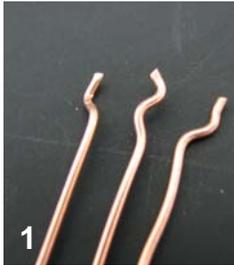
Bamboo skewer

Tiny clay molds and cubic zirconium (optional)

Drying (page 7) and firing (page 8) apparatus

Pickling and finishing materials (page 9)

Round-nosed pliers



1. Trim pure copper wire to 3-inch lengths. Bend one end into an "s"-shape so that the wires will be held once embedded.
2. Roll the clay to 1.5mm, and texture to 1.0mm (detailed directions page 6). Use a circle cutter or template to trim a 1.5-1.75inch diameter circle shape. Store extra clay (info page 7).
3. Flip the circle texture-side down, and moisten the flat back with water. Allow the water to absorb into the clay, hydrating it well.
4. Begin loosely folding the clay circle, forming a cannoli-like tube.
5. With your fingers, gently but working quickly, begin rolling the circle so that one side pinches in to form a coil. Roll down towards the center of the circle just until the thin coil is long enough to function as a roll-over bail. Moisten along the process as needed, preventing the clay from getting crackly. Lightly flatten the tip of the coil, increasing surface area where the bail will attach to the body of the lily shape.
6. Using a trimmed piece of bamboo skewer to hold space, fold the bail over. Use a paintbrush to wet the surfaces of the clay, making a surface paste where the bail attaches to the body of the lily. With a small amount of copper clay, make a thick paste, and apply liberally to the seam where the lily meets the bail, strengthening the join.
7. Carefully, keeping from putting fingers in wet paste, insert the s-shaped ends of copper wire up and into the lily. Ideally, the wire is deep enough that the entire "s" is embedded; the wires can be carefully placed so that they enter up and into a portion of the bail. Keep the wires aimed to the center, and do not allow the wire to poke through the outside of the lily. Even after firing, the wires should not poke through the lily at any point.
8. Dry the pendant completely, then refine gently with sanding materials. Avoid hitting the wires, as they will act to pry the lily and can crack the piece or simply fall out. Whether wires become loose or not, drop thick paste into the center of the lily to better hold the wires and support the inside of the pendant. Dry the pendant upside down so that the paste dries deep in the well of the lily shape.
9. Mold a little piece of copper clay and attach to the front of the bail to further disguise the bail-to-lily seam. Use thick paste to adhere the molded item to the bail area, drying well, and pasting and drying edges a second time for added strength.
10. Sand smooth again, particularly over any pasted areas. Very carefully, trim wires to their desired lengths, leaving wires longer if you plan to coil them as tendrils. Fire the pendant according to directions listed on page 8. This piece is best kiln-fired, but torch-firing is not unfeasible.
11. Follow directions on page 9 to pickle and finish the copper pendant, careful of the protruding wires.
12. Coil "tendrils" with round-nosed pliers. Use jeweler's epoxy to mount pearls on the ends of the desired wires.

