

Art Clay Copper and Silver Celtic Pendant



Materials:

20-25g Art Clay™ Copper Clay

14g Art Clay™ Silver Clay

Art Clay™ Silver Syringe Type Clay

Standard metal clay tools

Flexible clay mold (Celtic knot shown)

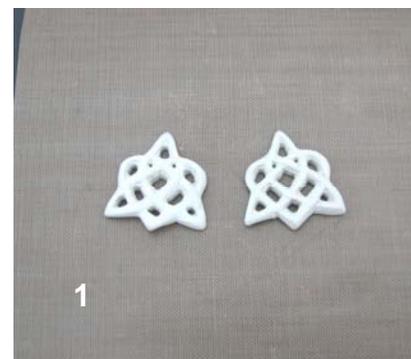
Small pattern texture sheets, 2

Pin vise with 2-3mm drill bit

Drying apparatus (see page 7)

Firing equipment (see page 8)

Pickling and finishing materials (see page 9)

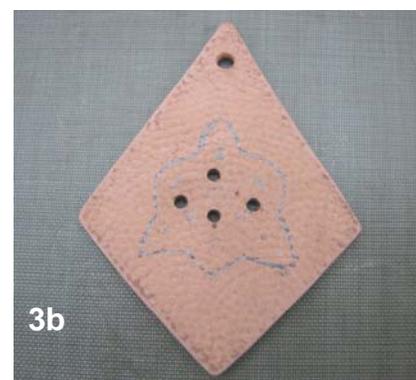
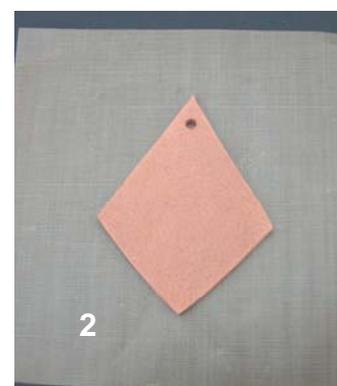


1. Split the silver clay into two equal portions, storing the second bit under wet paper towel until needed. Moisten the silver clay with water so that it is very well hydrated, then press into a conditioned flexible clay mold. We've shown Celtic knot designs, but molds come in every imaginable design possibility. While still wet, release the silver clay from the mold, trimming away any portions between lines. Repeat for the second bit of silver clay, for 2 identical molded designs. Dry the silver designs, then sand them smooth and to have flat backs. Set molded silver pieces aside.

2. Following instructions on page 6, roll the copper clay to 2.0mm. Texture the clay on both sides by trapping the clay *between* two textures and rolling to 1.5mm. Trim the clay to your intended shape, and use a cocktail straw to punch a hole for a jump ring. (If you wish, you can plan to create a rolled-style bail for this project; allow for this when trimming your clay and be sure to center the rolled bail for a less obvious "front" and "back".) Dry thoroughly.

3. Refine the edges of the copper clay until smooth. Place the dried silver design on top of the dried copper clay where you prefer the silver to be attached later. Trace the silver with a pencil so that you can clearly see its shape. Use the pin vise with a 2-3mm bit to drill 3-5 holes through the copper clay, taking into account that the copper is going to shrink a little bit while firing. Try to place the holes where they will later be underneath silver, hidden on the finished piece.

4. Fire the Art Clay™ Copper, alone, according to instructions on page 8. Follow the pickling and finishing directions on page 9 so that the copper is free of any firescale, then wash it with baking soda so that the copper is clean of chemicals. If necessary, tap the copper flat again using a rawhide mallet.



5. Place small blobs of Art Clay™ Silver Syringe Type Clay on the backs of the silver clay designs (aim for where the holes in the copper would be, and press them onto the copper so that syringe silver oozes through to the other side of the copper. Place more syringe silver on the oozed areas and press the second silver clay design into place. This process is referred to as “wet riveting” and we rely on the silver-to-silver attachment through the holes in the copper to hold the silver designs in place.

6. Fire the piece again, this time to 1600°F for 1 hour, or torched until the silver glows for 6 minutes. Do not quench the piece, as silver and copper will react a bit differently in the fast cooling.

7. Pickle briefly again if necessary, and brush the piece with a brass brush. To strengthen the connection, put a drop of jeweler’s epoxy in the wells of the design (optional).

