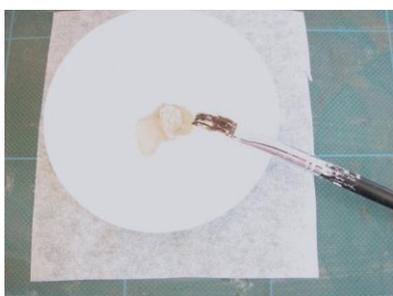


# Baby Mint Leaf Earrings

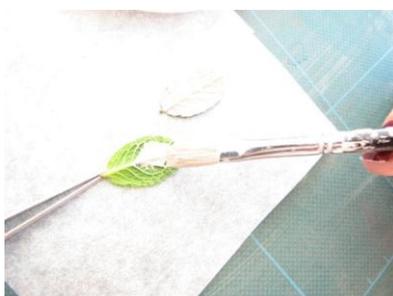
**You'll need: a 10gm jar of Art Clay paste (you'll use approx 1/3 of this), paint brush, small dish, 2 x Ko38 screw eyes, 1 pair of French ball ear wires and tweezers.**



**Step One:** Collect two mint leaves from the garden that are similar in size. (Other leaves are also suitable for this project – look for ones with good vein structure on the back and with no hairs or furriness).



**Step Two:** Blend a pea sized amount of paste with the same amount of water. Smear it together so you don't create air bubbles. Blend to a smooth consistency.



**Step Three:** Paint on to the leaf whilst holding the leaf gently with some tweezers. Dry. Apply two more layers of paste of this consistency, so you have a total of three layers. Note: Allow to dry naturally in between layers– too much heat could cause the leaf to curl up!



**Step Four:** Apply six more layers, drying in between each layer with the paste straight from the jar ie full consistency. If the brush starts to drag a little, dip the very tip of the brush in some water which should make the paste a little easier to spread. You should have a finished thickness of at least 1mm.



**Step Five:** Use a little paste at the top of the leaves to help the screw eyes stick. Make sure the screw eye is low enough down so the stick part of the screw eye is not showing.



**Step Six:** Add some paste on top and use your brush to gently push it around the sides. Dry. Fire in a kiln for 30 minutes at 650oC, or for 5 minutes at 800oC. You can also fire with a torch or using a gas hob.



**Step Seven:** Brush leaves with a stainless steel brush. You can also use your agate burnisher for a higher shine or put these in a tumbler. Oxidising these leaves also looks great.



**Step Eight:** Use pliers or your tweezers to open up the ear wires and place them through the screw eyes.