

QUILTED PENDANT



Many thanks to Hadar Jacobson for this project in her book *Mixed Metal Jewelry from Metal Clay*

MATERIALS

25gms copper clay, 5 gms bronze clay, 5 gms Art Clay Silver, Art Clay Silver syringe with grey tip and if you want to make your own textures, you'll need some Oyumaru moulding sticks.

Other things you'll need: worksurface, 1.0 and 1.5mm strips, roller, kidney blade (clay scraper) or craft knife, gladwrap, baking paper, ruler, a 5cm length of straw, scissors, stainless steel brush, spray bottles for water, 2.5mm drill bit and pin vice, rice (approx ¼ C rice to make up a textured drying mat surface), sponge backed sandpaper (superfine), silver polish and a soft cloth. Liver of sulphur if you wish to oxidise.

THIS PROJECT IS ONLY SUITABLE TO KILN FIRE.



Place around ¼ C of rice in a piece of gladwrap and make in to a rectangle shape. You'll use this to shape the main part of the pendant.



Condition your copper clay in gladwrap and then roll it out big enough to cut a 4cm square with a height of 2.5mm (use the white and the clear plastic strips).



Trim to a 4cm square and then place on the rice bag and shape it so it is wavy. Leave to dry.



Cut your drinking straw to a 5cm length. Then cut it lengthwise all the way through. To make the bail, roll out the left over clay in to a snake and then flatten with the roller using the 1.0mm strips. Wrap around the straw and trim away any excess. Your bail should be approximately 5cm long. Seal the seam with water.



Use your stainless steel brush to make a texture on the bail so that it looks like a tree branch. Roll out some more clay using the 1.0mm strips to make 2 strips which will hold the bail to the main pendant. These should be approximately .6mm wide. Wrap around the branch – about 1/3 of the way in on each side. Place your left over clay in some gladwrap to use later.



Use your ruler and evenly mark 9 squares on your dry piece of copper clay. Sand the back and sides of the pendant so it is nice and smooth.



Using texture tiles or your own textures, roll out the left over copper clay to 2.5mm thick (clear and white strips together). Remember to use Cool Slip or Olive Oil on the texture tiles so the clay doesn't stick. Trim each texture to 1cm square. Do this a total of three times on three different textures for the copper clay.



Use some water to help the textured square adhere to the pendant. Press lightly also. Place them on the main pendant. Repeat the same process above for creating texture and then securing on to the pendant for the bronze clay also.

Because the copper will oxidise faster than the silver will fire, you need to create a rivet out of silver so the silver will "hold" on to the copper. Using a 2.5mm drill bit, drill 3 holes in the centre of each square that will house the silver textures. Sand any rough areas with super fine sponge sandpaper.

Lastly, secure the bail to the main pendant. Use some slip or paste that you have made by mixing left over copper clay with water. This paste should be of toothpaste consistency and once dry on the front, carefully apply more to reinforce the area at the back. Dry and reinforce again if required.



Place your unfired pendant on to the stainless steel mesh and fire uncovered at 500oC for 10 minutes. Once cool enough to touch, place your pendant in a stainless steel container in activated carbon fibre for 2 hours at 800oC. Make sure you have 2/3 carbon fibre at the bottom and 1/3 on top. Then either use a lid or some fibre cloth to cover the carbon. At the end of 2 hours, take your container from the kiln and leave to cool. If you leave your container in the kiln, you'll find your carbon will turn to ash and you won't be able to re-use it.



Roll out 5gms of Art Clay Silver with 2.5mm of thickness. Roll it over your texture sheets as in the previous copper and bronze clay and cut to 1cm square. Do this 3 times, so you have 3 different squares.



Roll out the remainder of clay using the 1.0mm strips and use a straw or small circle cutter to create 3 circles.



Completing one square at a time, place plenty of syringe in each hole and then stick the circle to the back and the texture to the front.



Dry and fire once again in the activated carbon as before but at 650oC for 30 minutes.

Gently squeeze the back and front together so they are held securely but not squashing the front texture. Complete the remaining 2 squares.



Dry and fire once again in the activated carbon as before but at 650oC for 30 minutes. Brush with a stainless steel brush when cool and either oxidise or leave as it is. You can also use silver/metal polish. To keep the colour of your pendant, you'll need to use some kind of clear lacquer spray, otherwise you'll find it will oxidise further. I use CRC Plasticote. Hang your pendant on some cotton and spray and even coat all around. Leave hanging until it is dry.