

SILVER FRAMED PENDANT

Using either polymer clay or an image and resin as an insert



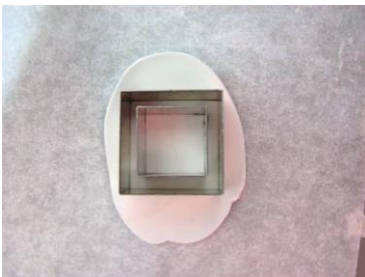
You'll need: 7 gms of Art Clay Silver, a little paste, file, sponge sandpaper – 3 grades super fine, micro fine and ultra fine, 1.00mm plastic strips, roller, craft knife or cutting blade, 13 and 20mm square cutters, baking paper, gladwrap, paint brush, bailback or jumpring, stainless steel brush, agate burnisher (optional) and silver polish (optional).

STEP ONE:



Condition your clay in gladwrap and roll out 7 gms of clay using the clear plastic strips (1.00mm).

STEP TWO:



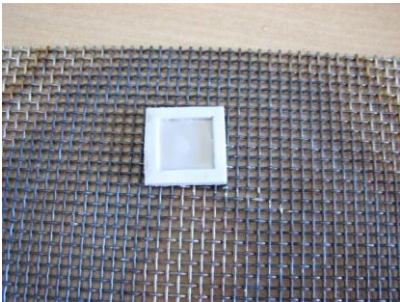
Using square cutters (I used a 20mm and a 13mm size), cut the top part of the frame first. Set aside. Condition your left over clay again and roll out once more using the 1.00mm strips. Use the 20mm cutter to make the base of the frame.

STEP THREE:



Spray the 20mm square with some water or use a paint brush to wet it.

STEP FOUR:



Place the top part of the frame on the bottom square while it is still wet and press down lightly to adhere. Dry.

STEP FIVE:



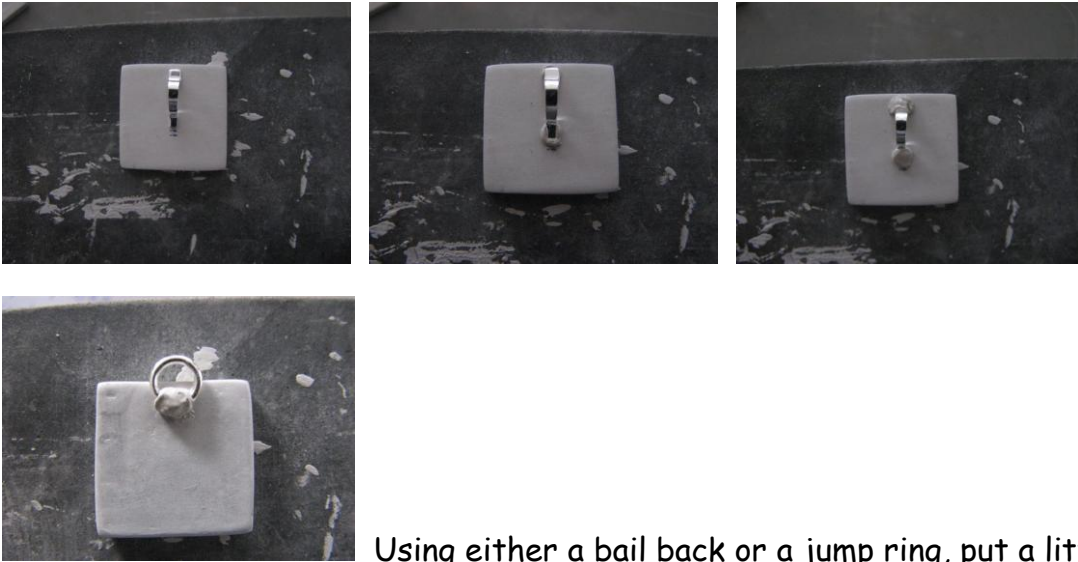
Fill any gaps around the seams with paste. Dry. (Note: this could take several times of pasting and drying until the side seam is no longer visible).

STEP SIX:



File and then sand the edges using the three grades sandpaper from rough to fine. Using sandpaper will give you a better finished result. If you see any gaps around the seam, fill with paste, dry and then sand again. Keep doing this until the seam is no longer visible. Don't forget to sand the back and also the top (front). There is no need to sand the central square as this will be covered.

STEP SEVEN:



Using either a bail back or a jump ring, put a little bit of paste underneath the feet of the bail back or a small portion of the jump ring. Cover over the feet with paste also and the portion of the jump ring as shown. Dry. At this point you can also scratch in to the surface of the back "999FS" to hallmark your piece. "999FS" stands for 99.9% fine silver. Fire your piece at either 800oC for 5 minutes or 650oC for 30 minutes. You can also fire this over a gas cook top (5-10 minutes) or with a torch (1-2 minutes).

STEP EIGHT:

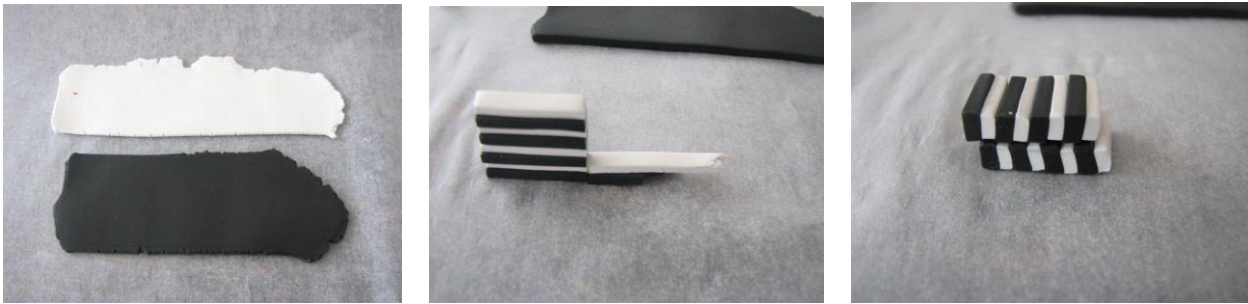


Polish your piece using a stainless steel brush. Using only the stainless steel brush will give your piece a matt silver finish. You can also give it a shiny finish by rubbing it with an agate burnisher and then some silver polish (after using the stainless steel brush) or using the three grades of sandpaper and then some silver polish (after using the stainless steel brush).

Note: Each pendant takes 3.5gms of Art Clay Silver. This project would be suitable for earrings also.

NOW DECIDE WHAT INSERT YOU WANT TO PUT IN YOUR FRAME - POLYMER CLAY OR IMAGE AND RESIN

POLYMER CLAY



Roll out some black and white polymer clay to 1.00mm thick. Using a tissue blade, cut a small strip approx 2mm wide from each of the black and white clay. Layer, cut and layer again to make a black and white check pattern.



Cut this twice again to make and line it up so you have a checkerboard pattern. Gently push it together trying not to distort the pattern (the plastic strips or a ruler are good for doing this). Cut the pattern to fit the silver frame and place gently inside. Bake in an oven to harden the polymer clay for 110oC for 20-30 minutes. Keep a close eye on this as polymer clay can burn. This can be sanded with wet and dry sandpaper under running water if necessary to give a smooth finish or it can be coated with lacquer, resin or varnish.

IMAGE AND RESIN



Cut out an image so it fits perfectly inside the silver frame. Using Kraftex decopodge, paint a small amount inside the frame and then gently place the image in using tweezers. (My image was from a serviette). Dry and then coat the top with another two layers of decopodge, drying in between each layer (image only, not the whole frame). This will seal the image. Decopodge dries clear. As this frame doesn't sit flat because of the bail back, I've placed it on some polystyrene and embedded the bail back in to it. This will keep it flat while the resin sets.



Squeeze a small amount of P2 Jelly resin on to some non absorbent paper and use a toothpick to carry the resin and place it on the image in the frame. Make sure the whole image is covered with the resin and it is even. P2 Jelly resin sets best 1.00mm thickness at a time. As this frame is only 1.00mm in thickness it requires setting only once. Place the frame under ultra violet light and leave for approximately 5 minutes until set. Check it is set by using the tip of a clean toothpick and pricking a corner of the resin - if it is hard, it is set, if it is still soft, place the frame under the ultra violet light again.

