

TORCH FIRING

Unless you have experienced torch firing before, I wouldn't recommend it for a beginner. It is very easy to "melt" the silver and it takes skill and practise to achieve the desired results. Firing takes between 1-2 minutes, so it is certainly quick!

A butane torch is easily available at places such as Placemakers or Bunnings and is refillable using butane (the kind used for refilling lighters).

You will also need tweezers (F016, \$5 from the website) and a fibre brick (F081, \$7.50 from the website).

Method

1. Set the dried Art Clay piece on the fibre brick. If your piece contains any small synthetic stones, then make sure that they are faced away from the direct flame of the torch.
2. Fill and light the torch according to the manufacturers instructions.
3. Hold the torch at a 45o angle at approximately 3-6cms distance from the piece.
4. Hold the flame on the piece at all times, rotating slowly to heat the piece evenly.
5. You will notice a small bit of smoke and flame which is the combustion of the organic binders. After this is completed, the piece will begin to turn white. *Watch the piece very carefully!*
6. As the piece begins to glow, the visual cues are very important. The colour must be peachy orange and not a deep, intense orange or cherry red. If the piece begins to shine, or the surface bubbles at all, increase the distance between the flame and the piece immediately, as this means melting is imminent.
7. When the peachy flow has been established, adjust the distance between the flame and the piece to maintain that colour and start your timer.
8. 1-2gms requires 1 minute, 2-5gms requires 1.5 minutes, 5-10gms requires at least 2 minutes, 10-15gms requires 2.5 minutes, 15-20gms requires 3 minutes and 20-25gms requires 3.5-4 minutes.
9. When the appropriate firing time has been completed, turn off the torch and place it in a safe location as it is still very hot. Leave the piece to cool naturally or transfer it to another heat resistant surface to cool.