



Holiday Gifts & Simple Projects

These projects are perfect for last minute gifts and a final re-stocking for the final holiday sale. They can also be enjoyable projects to do with a visiting family member who wants to know what in the world metal clay is or an afternoon project you can share with younger visitors.

Supplies

The Basics

Teflon sheet
Clay Roller/Slats
Badger Balm
Water and Brush
Scalpel
Tissue Slicing Blade

Clay

Any – our projects were made with PMC3 and PMC Standard.

Other Tools & Components

Texture Mats and Style Stones
See page three for the textures used in these projects.

Finishing

Wire or Brass Brush
Tumbler/Shot
Shine Brite Polishing Compound (SHNBRT)
Agate Burnisher (BTSTONE2)
Micro-Mesh Polishing Pads (3MSTP364)
2" x2" Ultra Polishing Pad (ULTPOLPAD)
Liver of Sulphur of Jeweler's Black (Optional)
Chains, ribbons, and findings of your choice

Step-by-Step

Since this week's project are basic, I have included general instructions, but the real focus is on the simple texture and image combinations you can play with to create a wide range of pieces.

For each project:

- 1) Lightly coat surface of roller, hands, and textures with Badger Balm.
- 2) Condition each piece of clay before using by gently kneading and compressing into a smooth ball.
- 3) Slightly flatten the ball of clay, lay it on the Teflon surface and roll to a depth of one slat (three cards).

- 4) Press your selected texture into the clay. Let the clay set for a few minutes to firm up.
- 5) Depending on the desired shape, use either the Tissue Slicing Blade or a scalpel to cut the your square, or heart, or snowman, etc. Remove excess clay and, where possible, gently tap the edges of the clay square with the flat of the blade to compress and smooth the edges. Careful cleaning now can cut down on sanding and filing later.
- 6) Let dry.
- 7) When these pieces are dry, use the PVSet drill to drill any holes necessary for the design.
- 8) Clean up each piece and fire according to manufacturer's directions for the clay you are using.
- 9) When the pieces are fired, brush with a wire brush, tumble and burnish. If your piece includes mirror finish, use the Micro-Mesh Polishing Pads to achieve it.
- 10) You may patina the pieces with Liver of Sulfur or Jeweler's Black if desired. Prepare Liver of Sulfur as directed on the label. Jeweler's Black is ready to use. Please read all the instructions that come with those products before you use them.
- 11) I used Jeweler's Black on each of these pieces shown here because I like the contrast it provides.



12) Paint the Jeweler's Black on with a small brush. You can also use a toothpick or other small tool if you want to be very specific about where it is applied. Rinse under cool running water and dry with a paper towel. Polish the piece with 2" x2" Ultra Polishing Pads polishing pads until you have reached the desired look.

- 12) Use jump rings to combine pieces to create your final designs. Attach findings, such as ear wires, and hang pendants from the chain or ribbon of your choice.

Above all – have fun! Take a little time during a busy holiday season to create something and remember that not every piece has to involve complex construction or advanced techniques to be a fun project or a meaningful gift for the recipient.

Here are the combinations we liked:



Christmas Tree Pendant

Textures:
Style Stone - Yule Tree
Style Stone - Snowflakes

Jambalaya Set

Texture: Jambalaya Texture Mat

*Made with PMC Standard.
The greater percentage of shrinkage makes a nice size for earrings and a small necklace.



Ornate Fan Pendant

Texture: Asian Influence Texture Mat (fan shape)

Snowmen Earrings

Texture: Style Stones - Snowmen



Small Heart Pendant

Shape and Textures:
Pattern Cutter Set Hearts (PCSH)
Random textures and mirror finish