



## “MyPod” Necklace

Our offices are in Mesquite, Texas and we think the pod of the Mesquite tree makes a great starting point for a beautiful copper enameled necklace.

### Supplies

#### The Basics

Teflon sheet  
Badger Balm  
Water and Brush  
Scalpel

#### Clay/Metal

Prometheus  
Copper Clay  
(Our pendant is 43g)  
  
Copper wire  
(COP WIRE22)

#### Other Tools

Project Guide “MyPod” Mold (PGMYPOD)  
6-piece drill set (PVSET)  
File  
Enamel Set (MCE-KIT)  
Stainless Steel Firing Vessel (SSFV)  
Activated Coal Carbon (ACC1LB)

Variations of pendant below:  
Liver of sulfur gel (LOGEL-1)  
GlasClay Starter Set (GLCLAYSAMPLER)

#### Finishing

Wire or Brass Brush  
Picklean (PICKLEAN)  
Ammonia  
Tumbler/Shot  
2” x 2” Ultra Polishing Pad (ULTPOLPAD)

Beads to compliment enameling  
Copper choker (COPNECKWIRE)

### Step-by-Step

- 1) Condition clay by kneading until soft and pliable.
- 2) Lightly coat surface of the Project Guide “MyPod” mold with Badger Balm.
- 3) Roll the clay into a long flat coil and press onto the front of the mold. Press clay evenly over the mold surface, pressing excess off the edges. Make the outside of the clay, which will become the back of the necklace, as smooth as possible for easier cleanup later.





4) Gently smooth the clay backward around the edges to form a thicker more compacted edge.

5) For best results, let the clay dry completely before removing from the mold.

6) When pod has dried, clean up the edges and back, if needed. The copper clay is very hard when thoroughly dried and a file is helpful in the cleaning process. Drill two holes in one end of the pod and a single hole in the other end, using the PVSET 6-piece drill.



7) Fire, following manufacturer's directions. Our pod was fired using the two-step carbon method below.

8) First, place the bone-dry pod on stainless steel mesh and put it into a kiln preheated to 932 degrees Fahrenheit. Fire for ten minutes, remove from the kiln, and place the pod on a heat-proof surface to cool. Be careful. This first step burns out the binder in the clay, so the piece is fragile at this point.

9) Second, fill a stainless steel firing vessel with about an inch of activated coal carbon firing media. Lay the pod on the charcoal and then fill the rest of the container with carbon. Cover the vessel with the lid and place in a kiln preheated to 1562 degrees Fahrenheit. Let the kiln return to 1562 degrees (opening the door lowers the temp) and fire for 60 minutes.

10) When firing using a Stainless Steel Firing Vessel, it is important to let the container cool down in the kiln until it can be safely removed with tongs. Remember it can be heavy! Place the stainless steel container on a heat-proof surface and open the lid. Let more of the heat dissipate before removing the piece. Carbon holds the heat, so this takes a little time.

11) Quench the piece in cold water as soon as you are able to remove it from the carbon. Using this method, the copper should be free of fire scale, but still may need some cleaning. We first soaked our pod in Picklean, then tumbled for a couple of hours, adding a little of the Picklean to the tumbler water.

12) After tumbling, soak the piece for a short time in ammonia to neutralize any Picklean which may be left on it. Rinse in clear water and dry thoroughly. Be careful not to touch the surfaces you plan to enamel with your bare hands. If the copper has been handled, clean with alcohol and let dry completely.



13) Read the instructions included in your enamel kit before beginning.

14) To begin enameling, coat the surface of the copper where you want the enamel to be with Klyr-Fire, which is included in the enameling kit.

15) Place the copper pod on a clean sheet of clean paper and sift on the opaque undercoat, #1010 as evenly as possible. Let this dry completely. A dehydrator speeds this process. Shake off any excess enamel and return it to the original container. (Each time you sift on a color, be sure the paper you are working on is clean. You can then funnel the excess enamel back into its container without contamination from other colors.)



16) Once you have applied your white base coat, you may want to refine the edges with a damp brush before firing. If there are any spots where the enamel did not stick, dab a little more Klyr-fire on and re-apply the base. This white base will be fired before color is added.

17) When the enamel is dry, it is ready to fire. Place the pod on a wire rack and place the rack into your kiln, which has been preheated to 1450 degrees Fahrenheit. (Note that firing on silver is usually done between 1400 degrees to 1450 degrees Fahrenheit.) Fire until the surface of the enamel has become glossy and then remove from the kiln. Set on a fire-proof surface and let cool until you can touch it.

18) Fire scale will form on the copper each time the pod is fired in this enameling process. Remove any loose scale each time you fire and clean up thoroughly after the last firing. Be sure to brush the loose scale off the back of the piece each time you fire. This is important if you are saving excess enamel as you work, since loose fire scale may contaminate the enamel you want to return to the package.

Figure A

19) Coat the area shown in figure A with Klyr-Fire. Sift on color #2230, lime. Let this dry and shake off the excess.

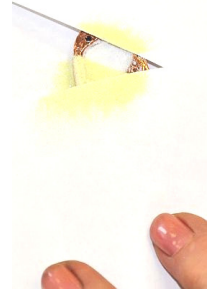


Figure B



20) Coat the area shown in figure B with Klyr-Fire and shake on various shades of blue starting with the lightest colors. We fired on the first coat of blue and then repeated the process a couple more times building more color layers. We allowed the colors to overlap and blend with each firing.

21) **Important:** Use thin, uneven applications for the blending process and use small pieces of paper to mask off any area you are not working on (shown at right).



22) Re-fire the piece until you get the colors and shading you desire. The opaque white undercoat mixes with the colors giving a lovely mottled surface.

23) When you are finished enameling, soak the piece in hot Picklean, brushing occasionally. Tumble again with a little Picklean in the water until it is bright and shiny.

24) Cut three pieces of 22-gauge copper wire approximately eight inches long. Depending on the size beads you use, it may be helpful to double the wire before coiling and stringing the beads. Coil the wire on the choker for a final finish.

**A couple of variations with the MyPod mold:**



Here, we made another Prometheus copper pod and used a weak solution of Liver of Sulfur gel and water in the negative spaces only. We let it stand overnight and discovered beautiful colors the next morning that will compliment a string of grey pearls.

We also made a pod from PMC Standard and tried filling the spaces with a mixture of blue and green GlasClay. We added the GlasClay before the silver was fired and then fired the entire piece using the PMC Standard firing protocol. This was just an experiment, but we love the results. Another option would be to fire the silver, then add the GlasClay and fire according to the GlasClay schedule. This would result in less melting of the GlasClay.

