



Shell Necklace Project

This beautiful necklace is surprisingly simple to construct. Use our pre-made mold or create your own for a striking piece.

Supplies

The Basics	Clay	Textures	Finishing
Teflon Sheet	1 - PMC3 50g.	PMCC pre-made shell mold	Agate Burnisher
Brush & Water	1 – PMC3 9g.		Polishing pads
Badger Balm	PMC3 Paste	<i>(alternative)</i>	
Scalpel		Create your own mold with Quiksil	Beads and necklace of your choice
Clay Roller			
Cards/Slats			
Palette Knife			

Step-by-Step

Making the Shells



1) Select your seashell molds. Use our molds specifically designed for this necklace (PGSHELL in our Clay Molds section) or make your own with QuikSil.

Note: Making a mold of your shell is a good idea for many reasons. Natural textures can be very porous, making construction more difficult. They are also more prone to come apart, especially with repeated use. Create a mold and you have a sturdy form that can be used for years.

2) Coat all surfaces and your hands with a thin layer of Badger Balm.

3) Open your 50 gram package of PMC3 and roll out about 40 grams of PMC3 into a shape similar to the large shell mold.

4) Press the clay onto the mold and carefully smooth the surface (this will end up being the back of your necklace) and remove any excess around the edges (*shown at right*).

5) The edges can be further smoothed and compacted by tapping with your finger perpendicular to the edge. This helps cut down on clean up after the clay is dry and strengthens the edge. Cracks should be filled with paste.

Note: when finishing your edges, keep in mind that the bottom of the shell should not have any sharp edges.



6) Let the clay dry for about ten minutes and then remove it from the mold. Gently flip it over and lay on the mold to finish drying. Don't press down on the clay! You want the clay to dry over the slight dome-shape of the mold, but you don't want to alter the texture on either side.



7) Divide the remainder of the PMC3- 50 gram and make the two small shell beads by pressing the clay into the mold and smoothing the back of each bead (*at left*). This will help the bead lie flat on your neck.

8) Remove the clay from the mold and repeat for the second bead.

9) Dry and clean the pieces.

Making the Bales

10) Take about 6 grams of clay from a 9 gram package of PMC3 and roll out an oval. Flip the clay oval evenly over a small straw. Seal with PMC3 Paste (*at right*).

11) Place the bale near the top of the large shell and attach with PMC3 Paste. We curved the ends of our bail up a bit to compliment the shape of the shell.



12) Use the remainder of your 9 gram package of PMC3 to make bails for the small beads. Roll the clay into a narrow strip and cut two small rectangles.

13) We built these bails directly on the bead. Attach one end of the bail to the back of the bead near the top and secure with PMC3 Paste.

14) Once you have one end attached to your bead, lay a small straw on the back of the bead and drape the bail over it. Secure the end to the bead with paste. Smooth each end of the bail a bit, so that it will lie flatter. The picture at right shows the bail after firing. Repeat for the second small bead.

15) Dry, clean, and fire all three pieces. Be sure to support the large shell with fiber so that it retains its shape.

16) Finish as desired.

