



Valentine's Gifts

A simple ring and pendant for your valentine!

Supplies

The Basics

Teflon Sheet (TFLR)
Badger balm (BHM)
Water and brush
Scalpel (SCP-X)
Tissue Slicing Blade (SB)

Clay

Any PMC or
metal clay!

Other Tools & Components

ClayMolds Components Molds in Hearts
(MOLD53179) & Flowers (MOLD53198)

Hex/Heart Component Mold
by Mary Ann Devos (MOLD53303)

Ring Sizing Tool (PRSIZE or MRSIZE)

Ring Pellet Mold kit (RPM) or
Hattie's Patties (HPAT) in the desired size

Ring Mandrel with Stand(WRMS)

Soft Sander Oval (SSO-X)
Pro Needle Tool (PRO-X)
Smooth Sponge

Firing container (SSFV or FFC)
Coconut Shell Charcoal (CSC1LB)

Finishing

Wire or Brass Brush
Tumbler/Shot
ShineBrite Polishing Compound (SHNBRT)
Agate Burnisher (BTSONE3)
2" x2" Ultra Polishing Pad (ULTPOLPAD)
Jeweler's Black (JBLACK)

Step by Step

- 1) Before working, coat all your work surfaces including your hands with a very thin film of Badger Balm.
- 2) You can find instructions for basic ring construction by viewing our Rings In the New Year series in [Project Guides Section](#) of the [PMC Connection web site](#). For this ring, I used a flat band RingMaker Mold to make the ring. Instructions

for this process can be found in *“Rings in the New Year, Part 3”*. You could also use the instructions for making a flat ring shank found in the Project Guide *“Rings in the New Year, Part 2”*.

3) After your ring band has been made, let it dry and refine the inside and outside surfaces.



Tiny Heart Construction

4) Remember to allow for shrinkage in both drying and firing, when choosing the size of heart for your ring band.

5) Make very small balls of clay and press into the desired size of heart in the ClayMold Heart Creative Component Mold. It is easiest to use an amount of clay that can be just pressed into the mold without much excess. Scrape the back of the mold with your tissue slicing blade and rub with a little water on your finger to smooth the back.



Tip: When scraping the back of any mold, it is easiest if you start each stroke in the middle of the form and work toward the edges. This will minimize distortion in the piece of clay. The final stroke will cross the whole piece. As a final step, smooth the back of the pieces with a wet finger.

6) Let the clay dry in the mold. To remove the hearts, simply flip the mold over and tap it on work surface. It's a good idea to make all the hearts in the mold and keep them on hand for future projects.

7) Choose the hearts you wish to use and clean them up as much as possible. The size of these pieces can make this a delicate process, but a very smooth sponge works pretty well for this purpose.



8) Attach the hearts to the ring shank with a paste. For our ring, we used PMC PRO and made paste using a small amount of clay mixed with a little water.

9) I like to use a wooden ring mandrel with stand to dry my rings on.

10) Let the ring dry and refine the surface for firing.

11) Place the proper size ring patty in the center of the band before firing.

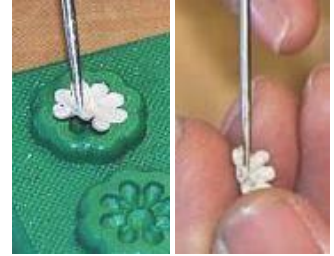


Heart Necklace

12) To form the heart base of the necklace, compress a small piece of clay into a ball, flatten it a bit, and press it into the Hex/Heart Mold. Try to use enough clay to fill the mold without much excess to scrape off. Flatten the back using your tissue slicing blade and smooth it with a little water on your finger.

13) Let clay dry in the mold, flip out on work surface, and clean and refine before attaching decoration.

14) Using the ClayMold Flower Creative Components, make several small flowers. For this necklace, I used the tip the my Pro Needle Tool to gently remove the flowers while they were wet, so that I could shape them naturally before applying them to the heart.



15) A variety of small leaf and flower shapes can also be created using the Pattern Cutter Sets. Both assorted sets, 3/16" (PCS5) & 3/8" (PCS3), have a tiny leaf and flower included. You can create a tiny flower center by pressing the Pro Needle Tool through the center of the flowers to pick them up to apply to the heart. Your scalpel is a good tool for moving or adjusting the petals after a flower has been applied.

16) To form the bail for the necklace, cut a small leaf shape from the 3/8" pattern cutter set. Use the tiny round cutter from the 3/16" pattern cutter set to cut a hole as desired. Let dry. Attach to the back of the heart pendant with paste.



17) When pieces are bone dry, clean and refine the surface. Fire.

Firing

18) To use the PMCC Fiber Firing Container, line the bottom of the container with an inch of Coconut Shell Carbon.

19) Lay pieces flat on the carbon with as much separation as possible and cover with another 1/2" on carbon. Our fiber containers are very efficient and **we recommend firing with no lid for PMC PRO.**

20) Place container in the middle of your kiln.

21) For PMC PRO, fire to a temperature of 1400 F degrees for one hour. When your pieces are finished firing, remove the firing container from your kiln as soon as possible and set on a heat-proof surface. Remove your pieces, quench in cold water, and brush with the wire brush. Tumble for approximately an hour.

22) Follow manufacturer's instructions for firing all other clays.

Important: Firing temperature is critical with PMC PRO. Do not fire PMC PRO above 1425 degrees F. A well-calibrated kiln is a must and we strongly encourage you to fire a few small test pieces to understand how PMC PRO responds to your kiln and container before you fire a finished piece. On items which have some degree of thickness, we have found that decreasing the ramp speed from "full" to 700 degrees per hour significantly increases firing success with PMC PRO.

23) After firing, brush the pieces with a steel or brass brush, tumble with a little ShineBrite added to the water, and burnish with an Agate Burnisher. Give a final polish with the 2" x 2" ultra polish pad and patina with Jeweler's Black.