

USING THE PMC CONNECTION RING MOLDS

(PART NUMBERS: RINGMOLD1, RINGMOLD2, RINGMOLD3)

Supplies:

PMC3 Clay – 16gram

PMC3 Paste – 9gram

Tools:

Paper strip

Wooden ring mandrel

Paintbrush or cotton swab

PVC Roller

Craft Knife

Smoothing tool i.e. Palette knife

Sandpaper

Olive oil or other natural oil

Procedure:

1. Measure your ring size. For mold RINGMOLD3, add 2 sizes. For RINGMOLD2, add 1½ to 2 sizes. For RINMOLD1, add 1 to 1½ sizes. This will allow for clay shrinkage.
2. Locate the size position on the ring mandrel. Now wrap a small strip of paper around the mandrel, so the center of the paper sits directly on the ring size location, and tape the end of the paper back onto itself. Important note: do not tape the paper to the mandrel if you will not be able to remove the paper (along with the ring) after the clay ring has dried.
3. Roll the clay into a coil shape.
4. Apply a very light coating of oil on the clay, using a fingertip, and press the clay into the ring mold.
5. Use the PVC roller, moving it back and forth, to push the clay into the mold and flatten the clay even with the top of the mold.
6. The ring mold is marked with sizes. These are Japanese or European sizes, which correspond to American half sizes. For example, the mold size 20 corresponds to an American size 10; mold size 21 is an American size 10½. Cut the clay slightly larger than the ring size as calculated earlier (actual size plus added sizes for shrinkage).
7. Remove the clay by using the end of the brush to lift one end. Gently take the clay out of the ring mold.
8. Wrap the clay around the ring mandrel on the paper strip. Overlap the ends of the clay band and cut through both layers (at a diagonal) with the craft knife. Remove both cut off ends and secure the resulting “butt-end” joint with a little paste clay. The strength of the joint will be improved by adding a bit more paste clay to the joint area.
9. Meld the clay together across the joint, using a smoothing tool like a palette knife.
10. Allow the ring to dry. Use more PMC3 paste to fill any cracks or gaps found after drying.
11. Dry the ring on the mandrel to the bone-dry clay state. When the ring is completely dry, you can remove it from the mandrel and smooth the surface or make alterations by using files or sand paper.
12. Fire the ring at 1,290° F / 600° C, for 10 minutes.