



COOL TOOLS

## Fuse Accent Gold for Silver™ & Sterling

Easy new gold fusing technique for 24K gold embellishments.

Accent Gold for Silver™ (or AGS) is a pure 24K gold product that is applied like a paint to prepared sterling silver and is permanently fused to the surface with a torch or in a jewelry kiln.

Accent Gold for Silver™ was designed to be applied to freshly fired silver clay articles, but I have found that by depletion gilding sterling silver, I can bond gold to the silver-enriched surface very easily.

First, depletion gild your sterling silver article, then prepare, apply and fire Accent Gold for Silver™ as follows:

### 1. Mixing

Open the Accent Gold for Silver™ container and add 8 drops of distilled water to the gold powder using the provided dropper. Agitate the liquid in the container by shaking it quickly back and forth to fully wet and incorporate the powder. The mixture will ball up like mercury when it's almost ready, about 15 to 20 seconds.

Light patches on the surface of the gold glob are unincorporated gold. Continue agitating until the color is uniform. The consistency should be smooth and creamy, but not runny. If the mixture is thin and drippy, allow it to sit open for a few minutes to evaporate some of the water, then check again.

### 2. Application

Accent Gold for Silver™ can be applied using a paint brush, clay shaper or any other tool that you deem usable for this purpose. Paint, draw or drizzled it on,

For flat, broad areas, try a #3 Red Sable paintbrush. For drizzled designs, try a Clay Shaper. I like the Flat Chisel Clay Shaper because it gives a precise line and it also works well as a squeegee for the gold container. Because it's silicone, the gold flakes right off for easy recovery.

Apply one or two even coats. Spread the material out and do not allow it to puddle in crevices or to "clog" up texture or a design. It will be difficult to burnish later. Allow AGS to dry between coats.

Accent Gold for Silver™ should be applied sufficiently thick that the silver below cannot be seen through the gold. The surface should be even and fully opaque, paying special attention to edges.

### 3. Firing

**By Torch:** Heat the item with a large bushy flame until the silver glows a dull salmon and the gold glows very bright orange, maintain and hold those colors for 2 minutes, raising and lowering the torch to regulate and hold the temperate. Allow to air cool.

**Kiln Firing:** Pre-heat the kiln to 1110F. The wares must be taken in and out of the kiln while it is still hot. It's easiest to remove the entire kiln shelf than trying to take out individual pieces, so be prepared with a firing glove and tongs for fast insert and removal. Kiln tongs are a great accessory for moving a kiln shelf in and out of the kiln safely and quickly. Fire for 20 minutes in a pre-heated kiln at any temperature between 1110F and 1650F.





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## 1. Finishing

24K gold is very soft and easily abraded. It's important to compact the fired surface very well and a curved burnisher is very good tool for the job. After compacting or "burnishing" the surface, you can polish and buff or tumble. Do not use aggressive abrasives. Use only polishing grits.

### Tips

#### Design

- Accent Gold for Silver™ is best on smooth, flat or low relief surfaces. It is difficult to burnish tight areas after firing, so textures with fine lines are not a good choice for adding AGS as the gold tends to "clog" up the lines and obliterate the texture.
- You can use stick-on type templates as a mask to apply Accent Gold for Silver™ in intricate patterns and designs. For best results, use the template on a flat surface, burnish to seal the edges. Apply AGS with a brush in 2 even coats. Don't worry if the gold gets on the template, it will be recovered later. After the second coat has dried, peel off the template over a piece of clean white paper to catch the bits the will flake off of the template. The pattern will come away clean leaving dried gold on the template surface. Scrape the dried bits back into the container to recycle.

#### Storage

- I discard the black washer that comes with the container of Accent Gold for Silver™. I find that these prohibit an airtight seal. Simply screw the lid onto the jar tightly to store mixed Accent Gold for Silver™. If you don't intend to use it for a few days, check the moisture of the mixture and add a drop or two of water as needed to keep it hydrated.

#### Thrifty Tips

- Any bits of dried gold from a brush or any other tool you use can be added back into the Accent Gold for Silver™ container and recycled.
- If the material ever dries out completely, just add a couple of drops of water and allow a minute or two to rehydrate. An Angle Chisel Clay Shaper works great for scraping down the sides of the container without losing any material.