Gingko Pendant Project

This simple pendant is excellent for the metal clay beginner. It features a built in bail that is well proportioned and clean. Learn a simple technique for creating a layered effect with Jewelry Shape Templates. The finished pendant weighs 11 grams in bronze.

Supplies
12 grams metal clay: silver, bronze or copper

Toolbox
Clayboard (WKS-106)
CoolSlip (NST-201)
Slik (NST-101)
Ultimate Non-Stick Roller (CRL-410)
#5 & #6 ClayThickness Frames (CRL-405, CRL-406)
Tuff Cards (WKS-103)
Tapered Square Jewelry Shape Template (TMP-208)
Gingko Jewelry Shape Template (TMP-259)
Ultra Clay Pick (CRV-103)
Small Ball Burnisher (BRN-109)
2mm Drill (DRL-103)
Swivel Pin Vice (HOL-101)
Diamond Needle Files (FIL-103)
Sanding Stick 400 grit (POL-305)
Patina Brush (PNT-101)
Satin Finishing Wheel - Coarse* (POL-751)
Digitally Controlled Jewelry Kiln*
Stainless Steel Firing Pan* KLN-954
Magic Carbon* KLN-949

Optional Finishing Supplies*
Foredom Flexible Shaft (POL-901)
Rotary Tumbler with stainless steel shot (BRN-405, BRN-402)

* Instructions are given for this project to be completed in bronze. Use appropriate finishing materials if other metal clay is used.
* For hand finishing bronze, a coarse Scotchbrite Pad (SOL-206), a steel scratch brush (BRN-204), or rotary tumbler can be used.
* A digitally controlled kiln is needed only if project is completed in Bronze or Copper clay.
* Magic Carbon provides an antique patina on bronze.
Make the Layered Pendant

1. Condition your hands with Slik to avoid the clay sticking to your hands.

2. Condition the clay by pressing it into a patty, about 1/16” thick. Butter one side with Slik. Fold the edges to the middle and knead the Slik into the clay until it is completely incorporated. Roll the clay into a ball.

3. Stack the #6 & #5 Rolling Frames on top of each other on the worksurface to create an 11 card thickness. Shape the clay ball roughly into a square shape and place inside the Rolling Frame opening. Use the Ultimate Non-Stick Roller to roll the clay flat.

4. Apply a bit of Slik to the Tapered Squares Jewelry Shape Template size you desire and position it on the slab, allowing enough space at the top of the shape for the bail. Using the Ultimate Roller, roll over the template so the clay is level with the template. Do not remove the template.

5. Apply Slik to the Gingko Leaves Jewelry Shape Template and position it on top of the Tapered Squares Template. Roll over the stacked templates so the Gingko shape is flush with the template, or press the template down to allow the shape to protrude slightly from the template. Remove both templates.

6. Use the Ultra Clay Pick to score veins in the ginkgo shape to give it more interest.

7. Select the bail shape that you desire from the Findings & Bails Template. Apply a bit of Slik and position the bail shape exactly where you want it on the pendant. Press the Template to emboss the desired shape into the clay. Remove the template.

8. Use a small ball burnisher to mark the center of the bail for drilling. The hole will be drilled after the clay has dried, which results in a cleaner hole.
10. Using the Ultra-Clay Pick, cut roughly around the outside of the pendant. Do not attempt to cut the shape perfectly. Stay outside the embossed lines. Allow the roughly-cut pendant to dry before continuing.

Refine & Sand

1. Using a 220 grit sanding stick, a salon board, or a 3M Sponge Sanding Pad (Fine), sand the outside edges down to the embossed line. Sand down to the line to remove it completely. Use the dry paint brush to brush the dust from the piece frequently to reveal the progress.

2. For the bail, use the triangle shaped diamond needle file to get into the tight corners. Use the embossed guidelines and sand to remove the line, resulting in a perfectly shaped bail.

3. Lay the pendant on a sponge sanding pad and drill the hole in the pendant using a 2mm drill.

4. Brush any remaining dust from the pendant and fire using a steel firing pan and Magic Carbon. Magic Carbon will result in an antique patina on the metal. After firing, finish as desired.