

Rollover Bail 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 simple techniques in forming and texturing wet clay and wet-setting gemstones. The finished pendant weighs 4 grams.

Supplies

18g PMC Plus or 16g PMC 3
PMC+ or PMC 3 paste
4mm gemstone or cubic zirconia

Toolbox

Claymate, Badger Balm or Olive Oil
CoolSlip*
Cool Roller or pvc pipe roller & cards
#7 & #5T spacers
Cocktail straw
Pallet knife
Paste brush (#3 red sable)
Water brush (#5 red sable)
Dusting brush (#5 red sable or extra soft dry brush)
3 piece Divit Tools (small ball burnishers)
Diamond needle files, rat tail and flat*
Brass buff or brush
Rotary tumbler or polishing papers*
Ultra Clay Pick or needle tool
Small Dot Grid Texture Tile (or other texture)*
Starburst Emboss Texture Tile (or other texture)*
4x6 Acrylic worksurfaces x 2
Polishing cloth



Optional Patina Supplies*

Liver of sulphur or other patina
Baking soda
2 small plastic or glass containers
Piece of copper wire, about 8" long*



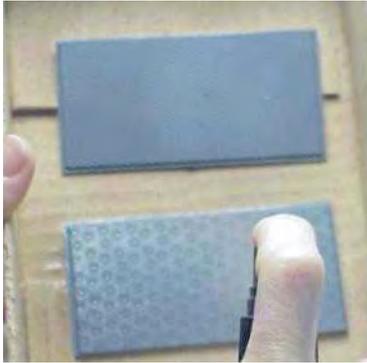
Pendant Shape Template

Print this page, then cut out the template using an exacto knife. Cut away the inside portion.

- * Badger Balm or olive oil can be used as a release.
- * This project can be finished entirely by hand with polishing papers or using a tumbler. If finishing in a tumbler, polishing papers are not necessary.
- * The two textures used will both be seen on the front side of the pendant, so the textures you choose should blend well together.
- * Diamond needle files are optional.

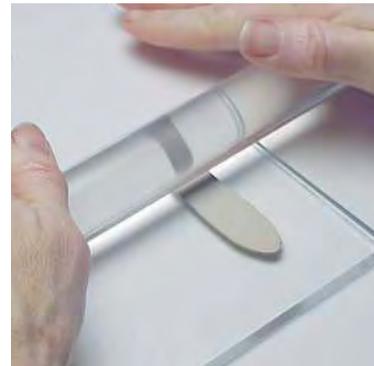
Prepare to create

1. Before you begin, have all the tools and supplies for this project ready and at hand. Print out the all sheets for this project and have ready. Cut out the template from the front page with a sharp exacto knife.
2. Spritz CoolSlip on a rag or pad and lightly rub over your rolling tool and 1 side of each of your worksurfaces. Install #7 spacers on your Cool Roller.

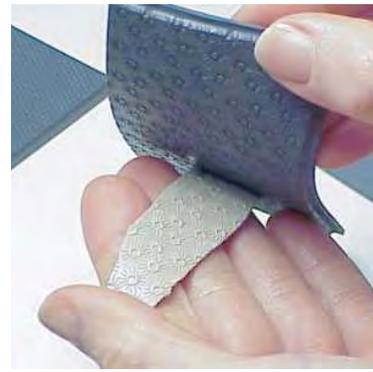
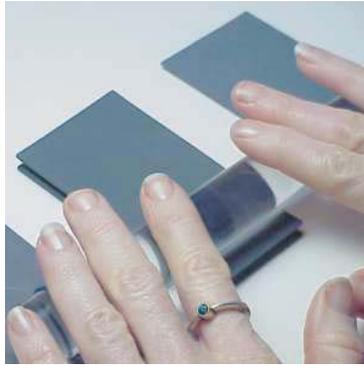


3. Place Texture Tiles in a cardboard or plastic box to contain overspray and mist with CoolSlip to condition them. A very light misting is all that is necessary.
4. Apply ClayMate to your hands, making sure to thoroughly coat your fingertips.
5. Stir your paste using the pallet knife and blend it thoroughly.

Make the Pendant Base

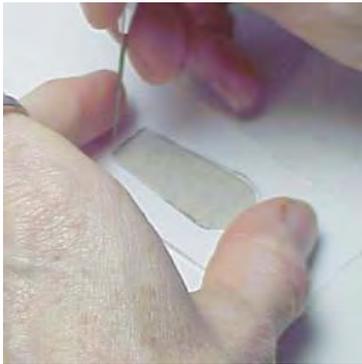


1. Knead the clay through the plastic wrapper to soften and condition it.
2. Open the plastic package to reveal the clay, but do not touch the clay. Dip your pallet knife into your water dish, tap it lightly to get rid of any drops, then cut off a lump about the size shown in the center photo above. If rolled into a ball, the amount would be about 3/8" diameter. Seal up the rest of the clay and put it away.
3. Form the lump roughly into long, thick snake. Place the snake on your worksurface and roll a slab to a #7 thickness.



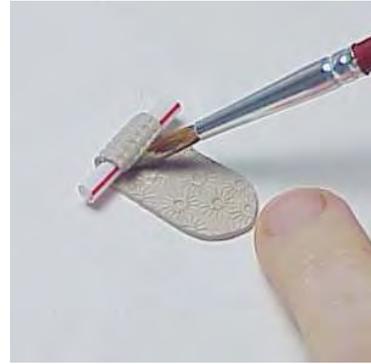
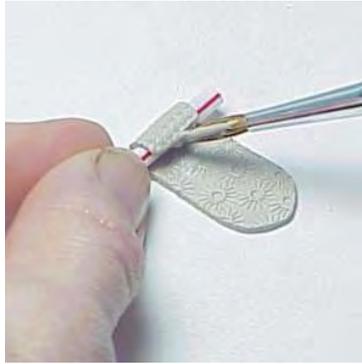
4. Peel the slab from the work surface and place on one of the Texture Tiles. Place the second Texture on top of the clay. Leave this assembly for just a moment while you change your spacers to #5T. Place a Texture Tile, face down, left and right of the assembly (see middle photo). The roller spacers will ride on the textures to accommodate the double sided texture. Roll over the assembly. Roll steadily, but do not bear down on the assembly.

3. Peel off the top Texture Tile, then allow the slab to roll off the texture into your hand as shown.



4. Lay the textured slab onto a non-stick cutting surface and position the Shape Template where desired. Cut the shape out with the Ultra Clay Pick. Peel away the excess clay and put it away.

Form the Bail



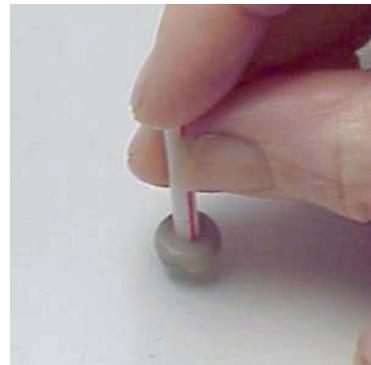
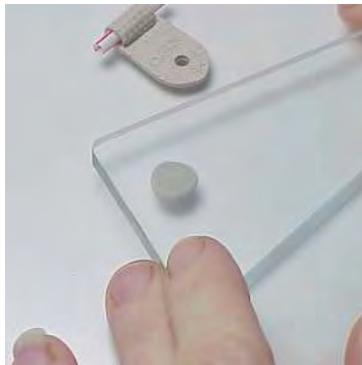
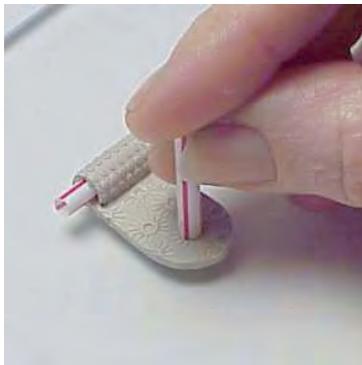
1. Place the cocktail straw at the narrow end of the shape. Very carefully lift the end and roll it over the straw until it touches the front.

2. Dip your paste brush into water, wipe it off so it is damp, but not dripping. Dip the brush into your paste and apply it along the bottom edge of the bail.

A brush should always be wetted before picking up paint or PMC paste. A dry brush will take up water from the paste and clay will crust on the brush hairs. By first dampening the brush, the paste will apply more smoothly and will resist clumping longer.

3. Roll the bail back in place, press lightly for a second or two and then apply water to the joint to set it.

Make the Setting

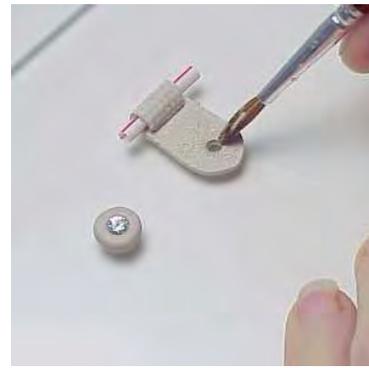
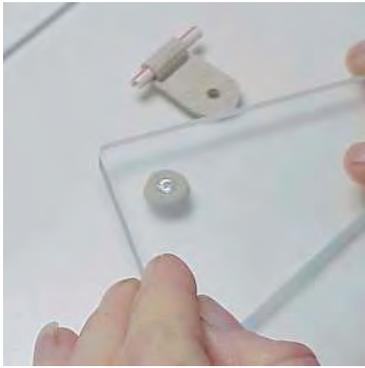


1. A cocktail straw is the perfect size for setting a 4mm stone. Press the straw into the clay to cut an azure for the stone. Remove the clay from the straw and put it away.

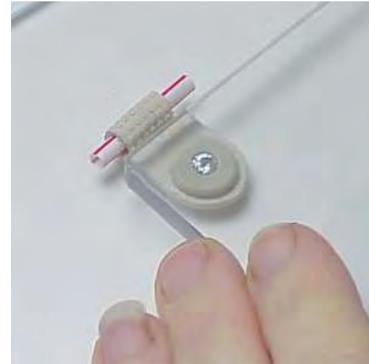
Azuring is a traditional technique used by jewelers in stone setting and wax carving. Azuring not only saves on metal, it is seen as a sign of quality craftsmanship

2. Cut off a piece of clay from your lump and form into a 1/4" ball. Press the ball into thick disc using the corner of a work surface.

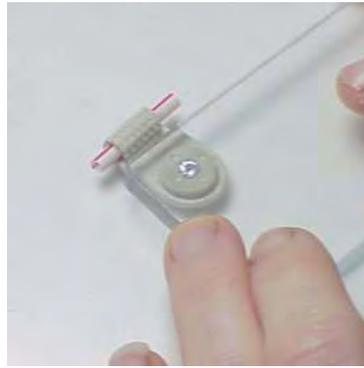
3. Use the cocktail straw to cut a seat for the stone in the disc.



4. Drop the stone into the seat and set it by pressing a work surface over the stone until the stone sits flush with the disc clay. Watch through the plastic and see as the clay makes complete contact with the work surface.
5. Use your fingers to refine the shape if necessary.
6. Apply water to the pendant around the azure.



7. Apply paste to the back of the setting and place on the pendant.
8. Press the setting with the work surface to flatten it as shown. Be careful not to go too far here. Do not press so hard that it distorts the pendant.



9. Using a small divit tool (ball burnisher), impress a divit at the north, south, east and west directions on the setting.

10. Press the setting with the worksurface lightly. Be sure to hold the surface level.

11. Remove the straw from the bail.

Refine, Fire and Finish



1. After thoroughly drying, check the pendant over carefully. Now is the time to clean the pendant edges if necessary with a diamond needle file. Use a dry red sable brush to brush away the clay dust.

2. Fire for the longest time and highest temperature that you can for the clay type and stone you are using.

3. Burnish the fired piece with a brass or stainless steel brush thoroughly. Far right photo shows pendant after brushing. Tumble to a high shine or use polishing papers to polish the piece completely.

4. If you choose to add a patina, heat about 1/2 cup of water to coffee temperature. Add a pea sized chunk of liver of sulphur to the hot water. Have a second container ready with a cup of water and about 1 tsp of baking soda stirred into it. String the pendant on a copper wire and dip into the liver of sulphur until it turns black, then dip into the water/baking soda mixture to neutralize the liver of sulphur.

5. Take the pendant to the sink and using a bit of baking soda and your fingers, rub the pendant to remove the patina from the high spots. Then rinse, allow to dry thoroughly and polish with a polishing cloth.

6. String onto a chain or cord of your choice.