



COOL TOOLS

Dill Weed Pendant Project

This simple pendant is great for the metal clay beginner. You'll learn to create a custom texture sheet and then use that texture to create this elegant pendant. We've used fresh dill for our texture, but you could use any natural grass or leaf as well. Creating the texture is quick and easy! We've used FASTfire BRONZclay for this pendant, but any metal clay can be used.

Supplies

- 16 grams metal clay: silver, bronze or copper

Toolbox

- Sculpey III Polymer clay
- Fresh organic material with low relief, such as Dill, leaf, fern, or grass that's gone to seed
- Work surface and Snake Maker (WKS-301)
- Stainless Steel Bent Tip Tweezers (TWZ-102)
- Flexible Tissue Blade (CRV-101)
- Clayboard (WKS-106)
- Ultimate Non-Stick Roller (CRL-410)
- CoolSlip (NST-201)
- Slik (NST-101)
- Ultimate Non-Stick Roller (CRL-410)
- #6 Clay Thickness Rolling Frame (CRL-405, CRL-406)
- Tuff Cards (WKS-103)
- Small Ball Burnisher (BRN-109)
- 2mm Drill (DRL-103)
- Swivel Pin Vice (HOL-101)
- Sponge Sanding Pad - Fine (FIL-103)
- Satin Finishing Wheel - Coarse* (POL-751)
- Chain and clasp of your choice

BRONZclay or COPPRclay Firing Supplies*

- Digitally Controlled Jewelry Kiln*
- Stainless Steel Firing Pan* KLN-954
- Magic Carbon* KLN-949

Optional Finishing Supplies*

- Freedom 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.



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Make the Polymer Texture

1. Soften a 1 oz package of Sculpey III, then roll out a slab about 1/8" to 3/16" thick.
2. Arrange your selected plant material on the slab.
3. Use your Work surface & Snakemaker or a piece of acrylic to press the plant material into the clay using firm pressure. Do not remove the plant material. It will be baked in place.



4. Bake the slab with the plant material in place in your home oven at 275F for 15 minutes. Allow to cool.
5. The plant material will be dried from the oven. Use your fingers to pull out and scrape away as much of the material as possible.
6. Submerge the texture in a container of water for 2 or 3 minutes to rehydrate the plant material.



7. Use the Bent Tip Tweezers to pick out the remainder of the plant material.





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Make the Pendant

1. Condition your clay by making it into a thin patty and butter one side with Slik. Knead the Slik in thoroughly.
2. Place the #6 Rolling Frame on the Clayboard. Press the clay roughly in the shape of a rectangle.
3. Roll the slab flat using the Ultimate Non-Stick Roller.



4. Spritz the texture with CoolSlip to prevent sticking, then place the clay slab on the texture. Roll gently into the texture. Place the textured slab on a Tuff Card.
5. Use the Flexible Tissue Blade to cut a rectangle shape. Remove the excess clay.
6. Using your Ball Burnisher, make a divot in the upper right and left corners. Do not try to make a hole. The divot made here will be a guide for drilling after the clay is dry. Set the piece aside to dry, or use a cup warmer or dehydrator to speed dry.



7. Install the 2mm drill into the Swivel Pin Vice. Place the dry clay on the back of the sponge sanding pad and drill the holes.

8. Sand the outside edges of the pendant to clean up and square them.





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9. Dust the piece off well with a dry paint brush. Any dust or bits left on the piece will fuse in place during firing, so be thorough.
10. Fire the finished pendant according to the schedule for your clay and kiln. Our pendant was fired in Magic Carbon for the antique patina it produces.
11. Finish the fired pendant in any manner you desire. In this photo we are using a satin finishing wheel in a coarse grit. You could also apply a heat patina by cleaning up the pendant with a 30 grit 3M Bristle Disc, then heating the piece gently until color develops and allowing it to cool. Then polish the raised areas using a barrel shaped polishing point in a fine grit.
12. Add jump rings, a chain and clasp to complete.

