

Why Precious Metal Clay Is Ideal For Beginners:

How to mould, fire and finish PMC

Precious metal clay is a clay compound made up of water, binders, and fine particles of precious metal. Easily moulded by hand, it allows beginners to produce intricate precious metal jewellery pieces easily and quickly with just a little practice.

Start with a lump of PMC clay, and end up with an intricate piece of silver jewellery – magic!

Your PMC Starter Kit

Clay Roller
Torch
Torch Block
PMC3 Clay
PMC Workmat
Badger Balm
Clay Moulds
Clay Shaper
Teflon Sheet
Paintbrush
Sandpaper
Spacers
Pack of Playing Cards (Optional)

Why use PMC3?

It is the most recent form of PMC clay and is perfect for beginners as it has the finest particles, is highly durable and has a fast firing time.

Pro Tip:

Some jewellers use playing cards stacked up as a guide when rolling out clay in place of spacers, giving an even distribution of weight.

MITSUBISHI MATERIALS
PMC3

Precious Metal Clay Silver
WWW.MMC.CO.JP/PMC/ENGLISH
WWW.PMC.GUILD.COM

NET WT 50g
55.5g net wt.

Moulding

1. Rub some badger balm on your hands to avoid the clay sticking to them.

2. Remove excess clay with your clay shaper after using a mould. Getting rid of flaws is important, as once it's fired you will be unable to remove cracks.

3. Don't forget to create a hole at this stage if you want to add a jump ring later. Use a drinking straw to form an accurate hole in the clay.

4. How do you know if the clay is dry enough to start the firing process? Place it on a mirror. If there's no condensation upon removal, it's ready for the firing process.

Firing

1. Firing your clay with a torch is only suitable for pieces that are approximately 2.5cm in diameter. Any larger, and your piece will have to be fired in a kiln.

2. Once you begin to heat the clay with your torch, it will start to glow orange. This means that the binder is burning away

3. Make sure you stick to firing times according to the PMC clay you use. PMC3 takes two minutes to fire with a torch once the binder has burned off.

4. Once the binder has burned off, start your timer and evenly heat the piece. Then carefully place the piece in a bowl of water using a pair of tweezers.

Finishing

1. After firing your PMC jewellery piece will look white. This can be removed by polishing the surface.

2. For a matt finish use a stainless steel brush to smooth the surface.

3. For a high shine, and a professional finish you can use a barrel polisher. This compacts the silver particles making your jewellery piece stronger.

And there you have it – a professional piece of silver jewellery!

Looking for more tips on creating jewellery with precious metal clay? Get expert jewellery making advice from Cooksongold, as well as your complete PMC starter kit.

 **Cooksongold**
Heimerle + Meule Group

cooksongold.com

