

Project of the Week: Copper Feather Wrap Ring

8th December 2011

What you need:

Brass Brush
Clayshaper
Creative Copper Clay 20g
Olive Oil and Dispenser
Paintbrush and cup of water
Ring mandrel
Ring sizer (US sizes)
Ring strip
Roller and spacers
Rubber texture mat - Feathers
Sandpaper
Snake roller
Sticky tape (Cello tape)
Work mat or Teflon



All items above are available from The PMC Studio, www.thepmcstudio.com tel. 01494 774428

Step 1

Measure your finger using a US size ring measure. (Creative Copper shrinks two US sizes which makes it an easy size to work with.) Add two sizes to calculate the size of the ring you need to make to allow for the shrinkage. Place the ring sizer on the mandrel to locate the position where you want to build your ring. Take a ring strip and stick it onto itself on the mandrel using a piece of sticky tape.

Step 2

Rub some olive oil on your hands and on the rubber mat. Use a snake roller to roll a coil. Place the coil on the rubber mat and place a spacer either side (on the rubber mat). Use the roller to flatten the coil into a ribbon shape.

Step 3

Wrap the coil around the mandrel allowing for a 2mm overlap. Cut off the excess clay and replace in the pack. Join the ends together using some copper paste and smooth using a clayshaper. Leave the ring to dry on the mandrel.

Step 4

Once the ring is dry take it off the mandrel and remove the ring strip from the inside. Use copper paste to fill in any cracks on the inside and outside of the ring. Leave to dry then sand. Repeat several times until the inside of the ring is perfectly smooth and there are no imperfections on the outside.

Step 5

Plain band rings less than 0.5cm wide can be torch fired; place on a torch block and heat until it starts to glow red. Maintain this heat for a minimum of 7 minutes.

Rings wider than 0.5cm cannot be torch fired. Fire in a kiln as below or alternatively The PMC Studio offers a kiln firing service at £2 per item.

Evenheat Set-Pro Kiln- Creative Copper firing: Fire at a temperature of 920C for 30 minutes.

Creative Metal Clay Kiln- setting 1.

Step 6

Quench the Fired Copper into some mixed Picklean solution. Picklean solution is created by mixing a tablespoon of Picklean granules with 200ml of hot/warm water. Leave the ring in the solution for 10 minutes immediately after firing. After 10 minutes remove it from the solution and brush with a brass brush to remove the fire-scale.

To achieve a high shine finish and remove further fire-scale place your pieces in a tumbler barrel with half a tablespoon of Picklean granules and 100ml of water. (DO NOT USE THIS SHOT AND BARRELL WITH SILVER CLAY).