

Project of the Week: Valentine's Heart Necklace

12th January 2012

This project features in the January/February issue of Fine Silver magazine and is available to download or purchase now

What you need:

Bows mould
Brass brush
Creative Copper 20g
Gas torch and firing block or kiln
Hand drill
*Heat-proof container e.g. a pyrex bowl
*Hot water
Olive oil and olive oil dispenser
Paintbrush and cup of water
Picklean
Sandpaper
Teflon
Tumbler
Tweezers



All items above are available from The PMC Studio (except those with *), www.thepmcstudio.com, tel. 01494 774428

Step 1

Rub some olive oil on your hands. Open the clay and press into the mould, filing it so the clay is level with the mould. Smooth the back of the clay with your fingers. Push the clay out of the mould immediately and place on a piece of Teflon. Smooth the edges and refine any fine lines with a damp paintbrush. Leave the clay to dry overnight or by using the drying programme on the Creative Metal Clay kiln.

Step 2

Once dry refine the piece using sandpaper. Drill two small holes as can be seen in the picture above using your hand drill. Your heart is now ready to fire.

Step 3

For best results always kiln fire - Kiln fire at 920C for 30 minutes- Place the heart on the kiln shelf and cover tightly with kiln pillow. This is important to keep fire-scale to a minimum.

Fire using a butane gas torch: Wait for the binder to burn off and time for a minimum of 7 minutes from when the piece starts to glow bright red.

Step 4

Once your pieces are fired remove them from the kiln immediately and quench in pre-mixed warm Picklean solution and leave in the solution for at least 10 minutes.

We recommend tumbling your pieces for an hour using stainless steel shot and Picklean solution in warm water.

Refresh and clean the shot and Picklean solution after half an hour. This method works best for removing all fire-scale.

After tumbling you can give them a final brush with a brass brush to bring up the Copper shine.

Please note:

You can create this project using the same method as above but in fine silver by replacing the Creative Copper with 16g PMC3. However, do not tumble in Picklean and your firing time should be altered to 700C/10mins.