

Project of the Week: Flaming Heart project

16th June 2011

What you need:

Agate/metal burnisher or tumbler polisher
Badger Balm
Clean up cutting and carving tool
Cutters- Heart set of 6
Drinking Straw Large
Heart shaped garnet 3-4mm
Paintbrush and cup of water
PMC3 9g silver
PMC3 paste to join components
Roller and 2 x 1.5mm spacers
Rubber block
Sandpaper
Snake roller
Stainless steel brush
Texture mat- Hearts Aflame
To fire: Kiln or use the Kiln Firing Service
Work mat or Teflon



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

Step 1 – Add texture

Rub badger balm on your hands, work mat, texture mat and roller. Place the clay on the texture mat and roll the clay 1.5mm thick using the roller and spacers. Remove the clay from the mat and place on a piece of Teflon. Replace the excess clay back into the pack.

Step 2a – Create the base

Cut the main heart shape out using the largest heart cutter. Use the next size down heart cutter to remove the centre and leave the smaller heart aside to dry.

Step 2b – Create the bail

Roll out a flat strip and wrap around the (thick) straw. Join the ends of the bail using paste. Now cut out two hearts using the smallest heart cutter. Place the hearts aside. Shape the edges of the bail using the clean up tool. Leave the bail to dry. Once dry, sand and refine. Your bail should be 'perfect' before adding to the rest of the pendant.

Step 3

Sand all the components prior to assembling the pendant. Start by adding the bail. Use plenty of paste to attach the bail to the large heart. Next, add the three smaller hearts using more paste.

Step 4

Use the snake roller to roll a small coil. Wrap the coil around the Garnet to create a bezel. The table of the stone should be level with the clay to ensure the stone holds in place after firing. Attach to the main heart using paste and smooth using a little water with your paintbrush. Leave to dry and refine. Prior to firing make sure there is no clay left on the Garnet as this cannot be removed after firing.

Step 6

Please note: NATURAL GEMSTONES CANNOT BE TORCH FIRED.

Fire your pendant in an Evenheat Set-Pro kiln on the PMC3 Fast Programme (700C/10mins). Once fired, open the door about 2 cm/ 1 inch and leave the piece to cool in the kiln.

Should you not have access to a kiln The PMC Studio also offers a Kiln Firing Service. For information on how to use this service please go to www.thepmcstudio.com. The cost of this service is £2.50 per item or £10 for a kiln load plus return postage.

Step 7

Place the fired piece on the rubber block and use a stainless steel brush to polish. To achieve a high shine finish, continue using a burnisher or place in a tumbler polisher with mixed stainless steel shot and 1/3 teaspoon of tumbler soap.

Optional: Use a soft cloth and silver polish to complete your polish.