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## User Guide

# JAPANESE ENAMELLING KIT



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**Our Japanese Leaded Enamels add wonderful transparent Jewel like colours to your Precious Metal Clay.**

**Safety Note:** Enamels are ground glass and contain lead. Do not inhale, Do not use when pregnant and Wash hands after use. When handling dry enamels please bear in mind that it is ground glass, some colours may contain lead, and a dust mask should be worn and precautions taken to prevent inhaling the dust.

Your PMC piece should be a minimum thickness of 2mm once fired, any thinner and you will need to counter enamel on the reverse.

Brush the piece with a stainless steel brush and if possible tumble for 30 minutes. This tumbling will flatten the surface of the PMC and help to eliminate any problems created by the porosity of the PMC. Rinse thoroughly and dry.

Rinse the piece with distilled water to remove any potential tap water impurities which can react with the enamels.

To prepare the enamels tip a small quantity (only clarify as much as you will need, as enamel degrades over time) into a clean porcelain mortar; add a drop of tap water and grind with a porcelain pestle for a minute or so. Top the mortar up with tap water and allow the enamels to settle for a few seconds. Carefully pour away the water leaving just the enamels just covered. Continue to grind until the enamels feel smooth. Wash the enamels twice using the distilled water, allowing the enamels to settle each time and pouring the water away.



Using a small sable brush dot small peaks of damp enamel to your chosen area. Once the area is covered with tiny peaks tap the edge of the item to level out the enamels and create a smooth, even layer. Allow the enamel to dry.

Preheat the kiln to 788c. Once the kiln is up to temperature, place the piece inside 1 minute 30 seconds (start timing as soon as the piece goes in!), remove, the surface should have a shiny glassy look. Allow the piece to cool thoroughly and if desired add another layer as before.

You can add another layer if you want a stronger depth of colour.

The silver itself will react with red, pink and yellow enamels so you will need to use a clear flux (fondant) as your base colour. The flux is prepared and fired in exactly the same way as for the coloured enamels.

Once finished you can either burnish the areas of PMC or tumble the finished item.

