

# The Art of Patination

A new term, a new technique, a new opportunity! A patina is a film on the surface of a metal produced by oxidation over time, but why wait? You can apply patination to metal clay objects now and speed up that natural process. One of the last steps in a project, patination can add an exciting color, hue and character to a copper or bronze piece. Experimentation and a flexible attitude are both valuable assets when working with patinas.

Working with fired COPPRclay™ and BRONZclay™, here are some tips on achieving a beautiful, rich patina on all your metal pieces.

Before you begin the patination process, clean your pieces with water and a compound such as No Name Patina Prep. Scrub the piece with a toothbrush or other cleaning utensil.

## tip #1

Sprinkle a light coating of table salt onto the item. In a small cup, add household ammonia (about ¼ cup for smaller items). Flip a similar size cup upside-down and place the metal piece on top of the cup, next to the cup of ammonia. Cover both items with a larger cup and let them sit together overnight. The fumes will react with the salt to create a blue color.

## tip #2

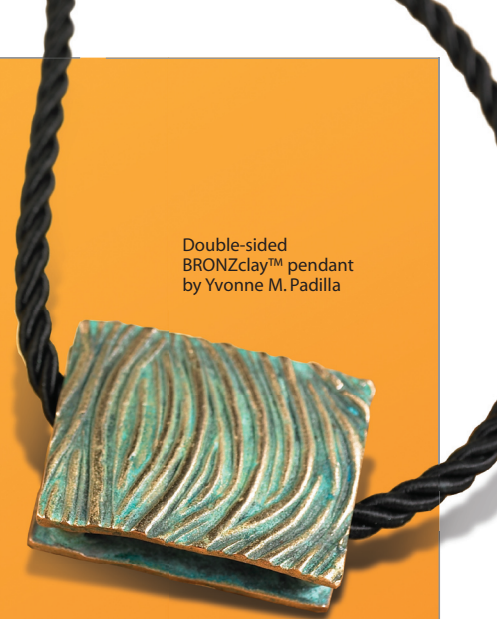
Dip the metal item into a pre-made compound such as Midas® Green Patina Solution. Allow it to dry for a few hours. To control the drying process and achieve a greener color, place the item on a heating pad. If you let the piece dry slowly at room temperature, it will take on a bluer color.

## tip #3

Alternating between a cup of water and a cup of a pre-mixed compound such as Midas® Brass, Bronze & Copper Oxidizer, dip the pre-cleaned piece of metal repeatedly into each liquid to slowly build up the color. Pat the item dry with a cloth. **Tip:** To bring out the patina colors and achieve a rich look, strike or polish the metal piece with a Sunshine® Cloth after it is completely dry.

**Please Note:** Results will vary depending on the metal you choose, the compound you use and the technique you follow. Always read the MSDS sheets to know what chemicals are in pre-made patinas and oxidizers and to ensure you are using them properly.

Double-sided  
BRONZclay™ pendant  
by Yvonne M. Padilla



## supplies:

Description	Order #	Description	Order #
Midas® Green Patina Solution	335-120	Household Ammonia	—
Midas® Brass, Bronze & Copper Oxidizer (Red-Brown to Black)	331-040	Table Salt	—
No Name Patina Prep	335-021	Clear Container as Cover	—
Midas® Liver of Sulfur	331-030	Small Dish for Ammonia	—
Sunshine® Cloth	337-038	Water Rinse Jar	—
Burnisher	113-017		
3M Scotch-Brite™ Pad Dispenser Roll	337-390	<b>Useful reference books about patination:</b>	
Fired PMC® Original	100-990	<i>The Complete Metalsmith Professional Edition</i>	550-108
Fired BRONZclay™	101-007	by Tim McCreight	
Fired COPPRclay™	132-007	<i>Japanese Patinas</i>	550-775
Warming Tray	111-735	by Eitoku Sugimori	
		<i>The Colouring, Bronzing and Patination of Metals</i>	550-142
		by Richard Hughes and Michael Rowe	



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