



## 1211-5

### On location with Meredith Arnold

#### Basic Foil Techniques on Polymer Clay

#### **Materials and Equipment Needed:**

Metal gilding foil (copper, aluminum or composite gold); found at frame shops or art supply.

Tee shirt decorating foil (a major brand is Jones Tones)

Black or other dark colored polymer clay

Pasta Machine – dedicated for use with polymer clay OR use a Plexiglas rod

#### **Instructions:**

Roll a sheet of clay on the thickest setting using a pasta machine.

Apply metal gilding foil onto the clay. Burnish gently to smooth and make good contact onto the clay. Don't squish the clay, just stroke the foil.

Set the pasta machine at one setting thinner, (rollers get closer together) and roll the clay and metal foil sheet through. This will cause the metal foil to crackle.

Set the pasta machine one more setting thinner and roll the clay sheet through again to spread the crackle. If you want a more all over crackle, rotate the sheet of clay 90 degrees to roll the clay through the opposite direction it went through originally, (horizontally vs. vertically).

Apply tee shirt decorating foil onto the clay with the crackled metal foil, pretty side up/silver backing down.

The new foil will only stick to the exposed clay and not where the metal foil is. Burnish gently the new foil with your finger to make good contact with the clay areas. Don't squish the clay, just stroke the foil.

Pick up a corner of the tee shirt foil and RIP it off like a band-aid. Do NOT be gentle with this step. It won't adhere to the clay if you don't rip it off as fast you can. If the foil doesn't adhere well then the clay may be dry. In this case you can burnish the foil down again, warm the clay by putting your hand over the foil and clay.

Polymer clay gets stickier when it gets warm so this will help the foil to adhere better. If that doesn't work, get some fresh polymer clay that isn't dry or crumbly and try again.

The end result is crackled metal foil with colored foil in between the crackles.

Set the pasta machine to the next thinner setting and roll the foiled clay through to thin the sheet. This will create a veneer that can be used to apply onto other sheets of clay to make jewelry items and use this pretty layer efficiently.

For more information about Meredith Arnold visit: [www.mereditharnold.com](http://www.mereditharnold.com) .

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