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Mary Hettmansperger connects technology with the use of metal in her jewelry designs.

**Mixing copper metals with silver clay**

Use silver clay and a variety of copper metals including sheet copper, mesh, screen, and wire to create unique jewelry with a mix of metals.

**Materials**

Approximately 1 1/2 - 2 inch oval or circle disc  
20 or 18 gauge – sterling wire – approximately 5 inches  
Art clay or PMC + approximately 10 grams

**Tools**

Anvil  
Propane torch  
Old pliers  
Bowl of water – iced or cold  
Safety glasses  
Ball ping hammer  
Block of scrap wood  
Awl with a sharp point  
Safety glasses  
Metal Scissors  
Pliers - round nose

**Tools for metal clay**

Acrylic Roller  
Non stick surface  
Badger balm  
Craft knife  
Slats/cards/plastic pieces/brass brush  
Kiln  
Old pliers  
Bowl of water – iced or cold

**Instructions**

1. Cut copper into an oval or circle and heat the disc with the propane torch wearing safety glasses to anneal it and make it pliable. Using the hammer and the anvil, hammer the edges to create a deckled edge. Use the awl and hammer the end into the front side of the copper piece, to poke holes



in the copper randomly or in a pattern. Make sure to either punch or drill one hole in the center of the circle.

2. There will be rough copper openings on the backside where the awl poked through and made the holes. Gently hammer these rough areas, but do not flatten them out. Just reduce the very sharp ones in the amount they stick up. They will still be protruding but not as pointed.

3. Roll out 10 grams of clay flat, about 3-4 cards thick. Make sure the clay is thick enough so that it will not split on the backside when fired.

Place the copper disc over the clay. Cut around the disc in an organic shape about 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch. Take the remaining clay and set aside and keep moist.

4. Gently roll the edges of the clay around the copper disc. Extrude the clay through the holes gently. Pat them flat once the sides are secure. 5. Texture the clay with a ballpoint pen or other tool that makes small indentations. Bore out the clay in the center hole where the necklace will hang from.

6. Take the remaining clay starting with a ball shape, roll it out flat and stamp with patterned texture from a rubber stamp. Edges can be organic and irregular.

7. Fire the 2 pieces at the clay's recommended firing schedule. Take out of the kiln and quench or cool. Clean the pieces with a brass brush. Apply liver of sulfur or black max on the silver area and then buff off the high points to create depth. They are now ready to make into a necklace.

8. Assemble the necklace by stacking the disc and the small silver piece. Adding a small flat bead to the very front and back makes a very nice finished look. Bend a 5 inch piece of 18 gauge copper or sterling wire about 1/3 in length at a 90 degree angle.

9. Thread on the series of beads on the wire. Bend the other side, making sure that you leave about 1/8 inch – 1/4 inch so that the necklace will have movement. Finish by making a wrapped loop on the 1<sup>st</sup> connection. A bead can be also included at this point by treading it on before the final wrapped loop is made.

10. Try silver, brass, or copper mesh or screen or other clays for endless possibilities.

For more information visit: [www.maryhetts.com](http://www.maryhetts.com)

**Guest:**



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