

1407-2

Mark Nelson shows how to make tools from bronze metal clay.

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Please continue to page 2 for project instructions.

Guest:



Mark Nelson

Bronze Toolery

Making your own jewelry tools out of bronze metal clay is a great way to get exactly the tool you need for the task at hand while adding a personal touch to your work bench! Learn how to make an inexpensive and durable tool for setting cabochons into metal clay.



BRONZclay™ StoneSetter™ tools made by Candace Gates using the "Sea Life" #1 handles sheet and the Ovals, Teardrops, Rectangles StoneSetter™ template.



PMC3™ shell piece set with cabochons using StoneSetter™ tools made by Candace Gates.



steps:

Making the Stamp

1. On your PMC® work surface, push a small lump of bronze metal clay (about the diameter of a quarter) into the Dynasty StoneSetter™ tool mold you have chosen. Use the Teflon® roller to roll out the lump and completely fill the mold. Wait several hours for the clay to dry to a leathery hardness.
2. Once dry, gently take the clay out of the mold and flake off the thin, dry edges of clay around the mold's shape. Set this piece aside for later use.

Making the Handle

3. Take another lump of clay, about the same size as before, and use the roller to roll it to a thickness of four playing cards. Choose the artistic mold impression you wish to use and lube it with Cool Slip spray. Push the rolled clay into this impression and remove. Repeat this step to create two identical mold impressions.
4. Cut both mold impressions out of the rolled clay and let them dry to a leathery hardness. Brush on some metal clay slip (a thick mixture of metal clay and water) and use it to "glue" the two cutouts together so you have a handle that has an impression on each side. Set aside to dry.

Finishing the Tool

5. When the handle is dry, clean the edges with a piece of sandpaper. Once it is smooth and ready, attach it to the first mold impression you made by placing the stonesetting mold on your work surface with the smooth side face down. Take a small lump of clay, about the size of a pea, and set it in the center of the mold with a bit of slip.
6. Press the two-sided handle you made into the lump of clay, again using slip on the end to glue it. Gently blend the slip and clay into the handle and stonesetter piece.
7. Set aside to dry and fire in activated carbon according to the BRONZclay™ firing schedule and instructions.
8. Use your fired stonesetter tool to press indentations into fresh metal clay. Once your clay creations are fired, simply set a cabochon in the setting using a standard five-minute epoxy.



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supplies:

Order #	Description
101-008	BRONZclay™
111-567	Rio PMC® Work Surface
111-579	Rio BRONZclay™ tool kit
111-599	Dynasty StoneSetter™ kit
111-463	Teflon® roller
111-448	Cool Slip spray
703-206	Firing pan
703-205	Activated carbon
206-025	Epoxy
—	Sandpaper