

## Firing Tips for Aussie Clays

- \* On the first time using Aussie Metal Clay, follow the 2 stage firing as per the packet and use test strips. **Stage 1** - ramp at 700°C to 500°C, hold for 30-45 minutes to de-bind. Cool to 200°C. **Stage 2** - ramp at 815°C to 780°C, hold for 2-2.5 hours and cool. Many people have success immediately, but there are a number of variables that can affect the outcome. This will give you a baseline for making adjustments to find the perfect sintering stage for your kiln.
- \* Use only **activated coconut carbon** and place a layer 18-20mm deep in a small - medium stainless steel pan.
- \* Place a layer of thick kiln blanket on top of the carbon and place your items on the blanket, sufficiently spaced apart so not to overheat each other.
- \* Do not cover with a lid, just fire open.
- \* Place your test strips where you can find them without disturbing the rest.
- \* If you have a SC2 kiln, consider removing the vent plug in the top - this has worked for many users.
- \* If you have used the Stage 1 programme with the FULL ramp without success, try again with a slower ramp. This helps SC2 users. As an example: we found a ramp of 500°C to a target temp of 500°C with a 50 minute hold worked for us.
- \* Cool down fully and check your pieces - they should be a consistent dark grey colour on both sides. Check them with care, they will be very fragile at this stage.
- \* Once de-binded (all binder removed), cover the pieces with a layer of carbon to the same depth as in Stage 1. If you don't want your carbon to turn to ash, put a lid on the pan. Programme the kiln for Stage 2 as per packet instructions. Leave to cool to room temp and don't expose to air until fully cooled.
- \* Remove your test strips first and do bend and twist tests for sintering. If they are fully sintered you can remove the rest. If not, you can run the 2nd stage programme again.
- \* Some Aussie Metal Clay users use single firing programmes which involve burying pieces in carbon from the outset. If you are good at programming kilns and find this works for you, it is a very low maintenance method of firing (but it does require some patience to not peek!)
- \* Check out the Facebook group: "Aussie Metal Clay Hints, Tips & Artistic Design." You can find loads of inspiration and support from the makers of Aussie Clay and other experienced users here.
- \* Email us at [support@metalclay.co.uk](mailto:support@metalclay.co.uk) with any questions!