

## FIRING ART CLAY SILVER ON A GAS HOB

**IMPORTANT!** To ensure a correct and safe firing, please read this information thoroughly before starting.

### 1. Dry

Before firing, your piece **must be completely dry**. If it isn't, it may break or explode during firing, resulting in injury or burns.

Use a dehydrator, hair dryer, warming plate, or kitchen oven to dry the clay (*please see the drying/firing instructions for more information on timings and temperature*). Don't let Slow Dry clay air dry, use a heat source. To check if the piece is completely dry, place the warm piece on cold stainless steel or a cold mirror. After about 10 to 20 seconds remove the piece. If there is no water condensation on the plate you are using, the piece is probably dry - please note this test isn't 100% reliable.

### 2. Trace outline



To help see if you have fired correctly, trace the outline of the unfired piece on a sheet of paper. Compare the fired piece with the traced size - Art Clay Silver contracts 8-10% in volume after firing so you should see a slight shrinkage.

### 3. Prepare bowl



To cool off the fired piece, prepare a bowl of water. The bowl should be made of stainless steel or glass.

### 4. Check glow



Place the stainless steel net on the burner. Make sure it is stable and secure. Turn on the burner and find the hottest area by checking where the glow is the strongest. It is easier to see this if you dim the lights. Turn the burner off.

### 5. Place on net



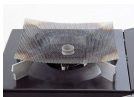
Immediately place the piece on the hottest part of the net using a pair of tweezers. If you have a protective net, place this over your piece.

### 6. Fire



Turn the burner back on. The piece will flame for a few seconds as the binder in the clay burns off. Soon the piece will begin to glow. Fire for 5 minutes. For safety, don't move or touch your piece or the net.

### 7. Cool



After firing for 5 minutes, turn off the burner and let the piece cool on the net for about 15 minutes. If you try to remove the piece before it is cool it may stick to the net. When the piece is cool it will easily detach from the net.

#### 8. Quench



After firing for 5 minutes, turn off the burner and let the piece cool on the mesh. If you try to remove it before it is cool it may stick. When the piece is cool it will easily detach from the net. Finally, pick up the piece with tweezers and dip it into water to ensure it is completely cool. Dry the piece.

#### 9. Check size



Check the size of the fired piece against the outline of the unfired piece. If it hasn't contracted, the piece has not been successfully fired. Repeat steps 5 - 8.

#### 10. Finish



Brush your piece with a soft brass brush to bring out the silver shine. You can also burnish it, tumble it, or for a real mirror polish; use fine grit abrasive. For a high polish, start with 600 grit, move up to 1000 and finish with 1200 or 2000 grit. Finally, give it some sparkle and protection with metal polish.

#### FAQ

**Q** - Will there be a difference in shrinkage, firing with a gas hob rather than a kiln, or torch?  
**A** - If the firing is done correctly, there shouldn't be much difference. The shrinkage will vary slightly depending on the volume of Art Clay Silver you use.

**Q** - Will I really get the temperature I need for firing Art Clay Silver with a gas hob?  
**A** - Yes, if your gas hob generates 2.9kW and you use the recommended stainless steel net.

#### IMPORTANT NOTES

- Only fire pieces under 25gm of clay, max 5cm x 3cm, and 2cm high.
- Don't use supporting material such as fiber blanket or vermiculite.
- Dim the lights slightly to see the glow properly.
- Don't fire hollow pieces with burnable cores, like cork clay, on the gas hob.
- You can't fire Art Clay Gold with this method.
- Make sure the piece is completely dry before firing. It is best to dry it overnight in a warm place.
- If firing Art Clay containing fireable gemstones, it is safer to let the piece cool slowly between two pieces of fiber blanket to avoid cracking - especially if the stones are large.
- Keep children and pets away whilst firing.
- Be sensible, you're working with high heat. Your silver and the mesh will be extremely hot.
- Don't lean over the flame, or move the silver or mesh whilst it is hot.
- Tie back long hair, and avoid wearing loose clothing or jewellery which could catch on the net.