

Create professional beads with Bead Builders and adapters

Available at:
www.metalclay.co.uk



Required Tools & Materials



Hot plate/Cup warmer	Cool slip or olive oil
Work surface	Scalpel or Needle Tool
Metal clay or metal powder	Clamps or pliers
Bead builder	Insert adaptor

Note: You'll have to consider how much your clay will shrink after you fire it, certain metal clays will shrink up to 20%.

The pictures of the first page are from Davidmetalclay.com and all the others one were taken while making this tutorial.

This tutorial and the pictures were done by Jocelyne Robertson and Debbie Jolicoeur, with the help of Donna Amireault for translation.

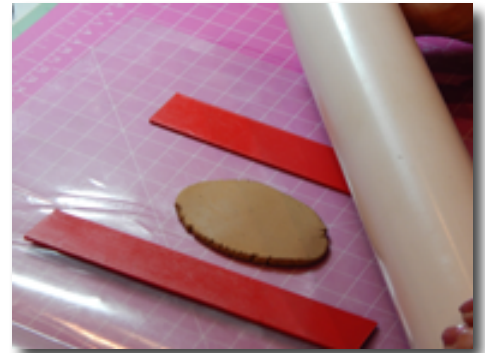
Enjoy !



1. Prepare everything you need before your start, and refer to materials needed.



2. Put some cool slip or olive oil on the two sections of the bead builder.



3. Roll your clay 6 cards thick. You can refer yourself to the chart below.

Color	Inch	MM	Cards
Black	.01	0.25	1
Yellow	.02	0.50	2
Green	.03	0.75	3
Blue	.04	1.00	4
Red	.06	1.50	6
Purple	.08	2.00	8



4. Cut 2 circles a little bigger than your mold



5. Put your two circles on the bead builder on the female section.



6. Gently push the clay into the two sections.



7. Close the bead builder with the other half of the mould



8. Press the bead builder with a clamp or pliers for a few seconds.



9. Open the bead builder and take out the excess clay around and in the middle .



10. Put the mould on a cup warmer for 10 minutes.

11. Be sure the clay is in the female part of the bead builder



12. Test your 2 sections to see if they match together.
If not, sand as required.



13. Prepare a little bit of slip/paste, and put some around one section of the bead and close with the other half.



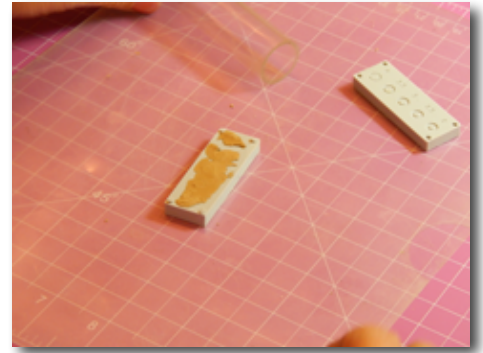
14. Fill your crack with slip, let it dry, then sand. Take your time - a piece can never be too dry. If there is still humidity when you fire your piece, it might not survive the firing.

ADAPTERS

As you can see, the hole in the bead is large enough for a Kumihimo braid or a big chain.

If you want your hole to be smaller you can attach adapter rings.

The adapter will bring a professional touch to your bead.



1. Put some cool slip or olive oil on the 2 sections of the adapter and put little ball of clay on each section of the one you want to make

2. Roll over the clay gently.



3. Close the 2 sections of the adapter, and compress it in a clamp or with pliers for a few seconds

4. Open the adapter and remove the excess clay. Close and put it on the cup warmer for a few minutes.

5. Open the adapter, and with your roller, hit the back of the section so the circles fall out.

To know whether the adapter will fit perfectly, choose the right size adapter for your bead's hole, then put a little bit of slip/paste around the hole of your bead, and place the adapter around the hole.

Voilà !



Now, it is firing time. Please always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

You will see in one picture that you do not place the mould directly on the cup warmer, but on a piece of glass. This is a personal choice because all cup warmers don't give off the same heat.

We hope that you appreciate this tutorial as much as we had fun making it.

Enjoy !