



Instructions for Oil Paste

A Must Keep

Product Review

Projects

by Petra x

The Silver Oil Paste is a great product, exclusive to Art Clay. Its main purpose is attaching fired silver clay pieces together - it creates a much stronger bond than the normal water-based Paste type does. Read the instructions that came with the product, and refer to the following points before firing. Although the Oil Paste bottle doesn't look full, it contains the full 10gm.

- Use a toothpick for mixing and painting. If you use a paintbrush, use the thinning fluid to clean the brush.
- Oil Paste should dry slowly, ideally over night. Whilst wet, the joint area can easily slide off or come apart. To make it a little easier, work directly on the kiln shelf, and use fibre cloth to support and secure the piece.
- Oil Paste is difficult to file or sand. Remove excess with a knife before firing, and file and sand after firing.
- Recommended firing is for 30 minutes at 800°C/1470°F.
- Seal the cap tightly, and keep indoors out of sunlight. If the paste becomes stiff, add a little of the thinning fluid and stir carefully.

How can it be used?

• Bonding fired Art Clay Silver pieces together

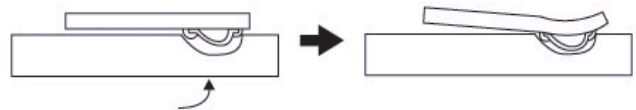
Scratch the surface of the attaching area(s) with a file to create a rough surface, which the Oil Paste can grip better to. Put the pieces together, carefully adding Oil Paste between both surfaces, and along the joint. If needed, support the pieces with fibre cloth, to stop them coming apart whilst drying.

• Attaching silver parts to already fired Art Clay Silver

Use for attaching fired Art Clay Silver pieces and silver parts such as sterling silver, Britannia silver or nickel silver findings. Silver (apart from pure fine silver) contain copper and/or other metals as an alloy, which can give you firescale (a grey to black coating, depending on the metal mixture) on the surface during firing with high temperatures. This can be removed by brushing, tumbling, sanding or pickling.

Attaching fine silver findings before firing, like a bail back, can warp your piece slightly if it is very thin. This happens as the

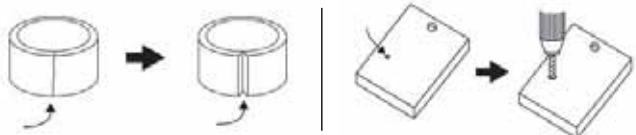
clay shrinks, and the fine silver piece stays the same size - as the picture to the below illustrates.



To avoid this you can fire the piece first, then use Oil Paste to attach the findings, and fire again.

• Repairing cracks, 'pit holes' and scratches on fired pieces

If holes or cracks are too tight to fill with Oil Paste, make the hole or crack larger using a drill or file, and then fill the area with Oil Paste to mend. After it has been carefully dried, fire as per instructions.



• Drawing with Oil Paste

Use the Oil Paste to add texture. Simply paint thick Oil Paste on a fired piece (or solid silver piece), and let it dry. Repeat the application and drying, until you get a three-dimensional effect.



• Adding relief on a fired piece or solid silver piece

Place Art Clay Original Stencil sheet on fired piece (or solid silver piece) and apply Oil Paste with a skewer or a sponge applicator. Dry completely, and then carefully peel off the Stencil sheet and fire.

