

GEOMETRIC STATEMENT

Use simple clay saving templates to create a fashion-forward, fine silver statement piece. *By Shayna Bowles*

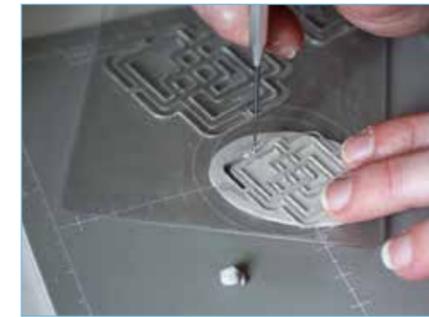
Shayna, originally from America, trained in Fashion Design and Marketing. She currently works as a Marketing Assistant at Metal Clay Ltd and enjoys designing unique jewellery in her own time.

This necklace, made with Art Clay Silver, was inspired by the futuristic styles seen on the Fall '15 fashion runways. You'll use the QuikArt clay-saving templates to cut out geometric connectors, fire them, then simply connect them together to form one bold pattern. Labradorite chips add a touch of colour and a dynamic texture on a few pieces ties the look together.



STEP 1

Set up your workspace; you will need your non-stick work surface, spacers, roller, templates, cool slip, balm, clay pick needle tool, and Art Clay Silver. Cover your tools with a light coating of balm to stop your clay from sticking. Place the spacers either side of your work surface and roll out your clay to form a large enough surface area for your template.



STEP 2

Make sure your clay is completely smooth when rolled out. Put some balm on your template (#55132) and place it on top of the clay. Gently hold the template down and use the needle tool to cut along the edges of the smallest template shape. Hold the tool upright as you cut to get the cleanest edges. Set all your cut-out clay scraps to one side.



STEP 3

After you've cut out the entire shape, take the template off and gently pull the excess clay away. Collect the excess and roll out the clay again. Repeat this process to create a total of four small geometric pieces from template #55132 and one small flower connector from template #55165. While these pieces are wet, keep them on a flat surface to avoid distorting the shape.



STEP 4

Reapply some balm to your work surface and roll out your remaining clay. Spray a light mist of cool slip onto your texture tile and carefully lay it on top of your clay. Gently roll your roller over the texture tile. Do not apply too much forward pressure, as you do not want to distort the texture or thin your clay. Peel the tile off, revealing your textured clay.

MATERIALS

- 25g Art Clay Silver
- Art clay work surface
- 1.5mm spacers
- Acrylic roller
- Ultra clay pick needle tool
- Cool slip
- 1mm drill bit
- Non-stick balm
- Brass brush
- Sanding pads
- Sanding needles
- Rubber block
- 3M polishing papers
- QuickArt clay saving template (#55132)
- QuickArt clay saving template (#55165)

- Jewellery shape template – Teardrops
- Texture tile – Kaleidoscope Embossed
- Labradorite bead chips
- 2 x Sterling silver fishhook earwires
- 8 x Sterling silver jumprings
- 2 x Sterling silver lobster claw clasps
- 5 x Sterling silver eye pins
- 5 x 4mm Sterling silver round beads

RESOURCES

www.metalclay.co.uk

CONTACT

www.metalclay.co.uk
support@metalclay.co.uk

Fashion inspiration

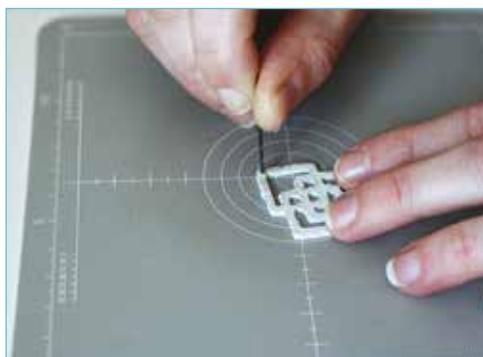
Blue dress, £29, www.laredoute.co.uk





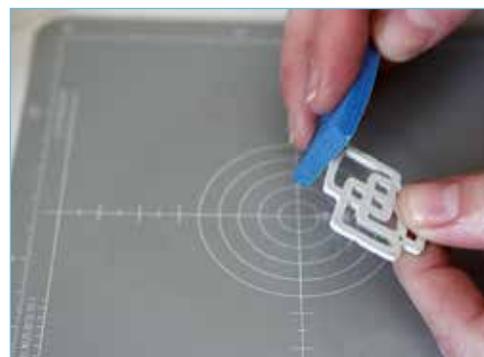
STEP 5

Next use the teardrop template and your needle tool to cut one medium teardrop and two small teardrops from the textured clay. You may need to roll the clay out and apply the texture again to get the desired pattern on each piece. Use a smaller teardrop shape on the template to cut the centre out of the larger piece.



STEP 6

Leave all of your clay pieces to dry – air dry for 24 hours, on a hotplate or in the oven at 150°C for approx. 10 minutes. Make sure your pieces are completely dry. When the pieces are dry, use a 1mm drill bit to drill the holes in each piece for the jumprings to go through. Be very gentle; applying too much pressure at this stage may crack your piece.



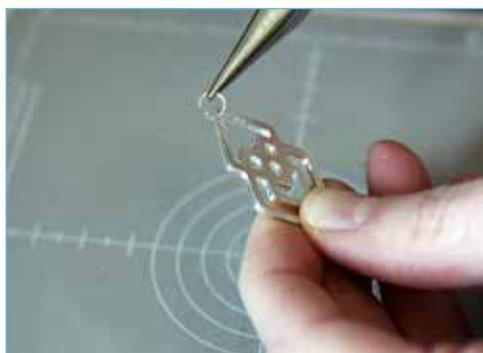
STEP 7

Refine the pieces. This is important, as this is the easiest time to get rid of any imperfections. Use the softer grits of the sanding sponges to gently sand the sides and back of the pieces. Rest each piece on a rubber block and use the sanding needles to refine the small inner edges. Once you are happy with your piece you are ready to fire.



STEP 8

Art Clay Silver can be fired on a gas hob, with a torch, or straight on a kiln shelf. Fire the pieces in a kiln at 800°C and hold for 30 minutes. We always recommend you follow the manufacturer's instructions. Once the pieces are fired, safely remove them from the kiln and quench in cold water immediately. Gently dry them and then brush each piece with a brass brush.



STEP 9

You can now polish each piece to the preferred shine using a tumbler or the 3M polishing papers. Create three beaded links by adding labradorite chips to an eye pin and forming a loop. Use jumprings to connect the silver pieces and beaded links together in the shown pattern. Attach even Sterling silver chain lengths to each side and a Sterling lobster clasp to the back to finish.



Designer tips

- ▶ Use a patina like liver of sulphur on your textured pieces to make the texture stand out more.
- ▶ While the clay is wet, use a toothpick to mark where your holes will go; this will make it easier to drill the holes in the dried clay.
- ▶ Layer the template shapes on top of one another to form an even more intricate piece.

Extra Projects Make earrings and a bracelet

EARRINGS

Use the texture tile and teardrop template from the main project to create matching earrings.



BRACELET

Thread bead chips and 4mm silver round beads onto a 27cm length of beading wire. Use crimp beads to attach a lobster clasp to one end and a jumpring to the other.