

Autumnal Blossom Ring

A Must Keep

Product Review

Projects

By MC Maker,
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Project Level: Intermediate

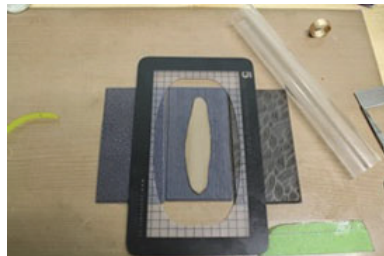
Materials/Tools:

- * Aussie Med-Fire Gold Bronze Clay - 50g
- * Texture Tile - Feathered Fineline (TTL-211)
- * Cool Slip or Olive Oil
- * Bronze Ring Core - N 1/2
- * Bronze Embeddable Prong Setting - 5mm
- * 5mm CZ (set after firing)
- * Pebeo Prisme Fantasy Paint - English Red
- * Pebeo Prisme Fantasy Paint - Violet
- * Non-stick Work Surface

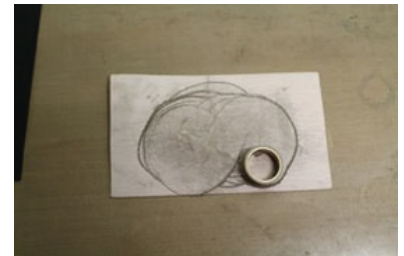
- * Clay Roller
- * Spacers or Playing Cards
- * Sanding Pads
- * Tissue Blade
- * Wooden Ring Mandrel
- * Flower Clay Cutter
- * Scraps of Polymer Clay
- * File
- * Fibre Blanket



Step 1: Start by roughening up the surface of the ring core to give the clay something to adhere to. Use a strip of paper to measure the external circumference of the ring core.



Step 2: Roll the clay to 7 cards (1.75mm) thick. Place the strip of clay onto a pre-lubricated texture tile and roll to a thickness of 5 cards (1.25mm). Cut the strip slightly longer than your measuring strip and wider than the width of the ring core - cover with a baby wipe to stop the clay drying out.



Step 3: Wedge the ring core onto the wooden mandrel to make it easier to hold. Wrap the clay strip around the ring core - ensuring there are no air bubbles underneath. Where the strip overlaps, cut the clay at a 45° angle and remove excess clay. Wet the join and press together. Set aside to dry. Once dry, refine the edges with a figure of 8 action but allow them to just overlap the ring core to allow for shrinkage.



Step 4: Ring topper - roll clay to 4 cards (1mm) thickness. Cut out the flower shape. Drape the clay flower over a ring of polymer clay to get the curvature of the petals. Set in the prong setting at this point - you will need to add a small circle of clay in the centre of the flower to ensure you have the depth needed to embed the prong setting. Leave to dry thoroughly.



Step 5: When the flower is dry, refine the petals using sanding pads. Wet the underside of the flower and the joined area in the ring band - add some fresh clay to the ring band join and position the flower in place. Allow to dry. Once dry, add some small balls of clay to embellish the centre of the flower. Again, leave to dry. Support the petals with fibre blanket during firing.

Firing:

Stage 1 - De-binding. Ramp full to 600°C. Hold for 45 minutes.

Stage 2 - Sintering. Ramp full to 775°C



Step 6: Polishing - give the piece a quick brush with a soft stainless steel brush and file the sides of the ring until there is no seam between the core and the clay. Place it into a rotary tumbler with shot and 1/2 teaspoon of barreling compound for 45-60 minutes. Finish with a good polish with a rotary tool and polishing compound. Finally, give the ring a good wash in soapy water, dry, and set the stone in place.

****Optional:** Paint Pebeo Prisme Fantasy English Red onto the petals and Violet onto the small balls. Do light coats and build up to the shade you want. Allow to dry for 72 hours.

