

Bead Builder mould for creating a hollow Heart

Available at:
www.metalclay.co.uk



Required Tools and Materials



Hot plate	Cool slip or olive oil
Work surface	Scalpel or Needle Tool
Metal Clay (your choice)	G-Clamp
Bead Builder Heart mold	

Notes: All metal clays and/or powders may be used with this mold, however, you need to consider the shrinkage rate, as some clays shrink up to 20%.

Photos are from David of Metalclays.com. The tutorial is prepared by Jocelyne Robertson and translated by Louise Seguin.

Have fun!



1. Prepare all the required materials as listed above.



2. Carefully lubricate all three parts of the hollow heart builder mold using Cool Slip or olive oil. Then clip the top layer to the middle layer.



3. Place a quantity of clay equivalent to a pea in each cavity.



4. Carefully press the clay into each cavity to ensure it fills it in.



5. Place the bottom layer on top, snap it in place and, using a G-clamp, press the layers together.



6. Do not remove the extruded clay at this time.



7. Remove the top layer. You may notice dimples on your heart which formed during the compression process.



8. Replace the top layer; turn the mold up side down, and using a 3 mm or slightly bigger drill bit press the extruded clay back in. Remove the excess.



9. Open the top layer, and the dimples should have disappeared.

10. This part of the tutorial is done with the additional 'Frame Adapter' layer. This layer enables you to create a frame border around the edge of the heart. You can insert a picture, resin or a design.

For users who have not purchased this frame top layer, use the top layer received with your bead builder.



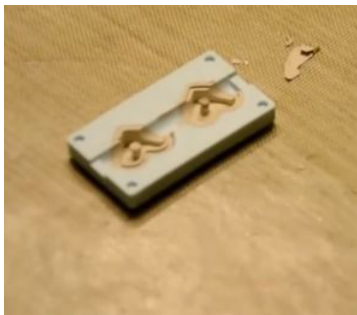
11. Reassemble the three layers and using the G-clamp ensure that it is compressed properly



12. Open the top layer, remove the excess clay and set on the hot plate to dry for approximately 10 minutes



13. Separate the layers carefully and dry on the hot plate for a few more minutes



14. As the clay dries, it shrinks slightly, which makes it easy to remove from the mold. You need to test-fit the two parts together. You may need to sand the parts slightly for this fitting. Apply slip to both sides, assemble, and allow to dry on the hot plate. At this point, you need to test the weight balance of your bead with the chain you plan to use (bracelet or neck chain) to ensure that it hangs properly. As required, add slip to the top or bottom of the bead. Apply a finish of your choice in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and voilà!

We hope this tutorial has helped you using and appreciating these molds and may you have as much fun as we did!