



Copper Ivy Bracelet Project Tutorial

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PROJECT LEVEL: Intermediate

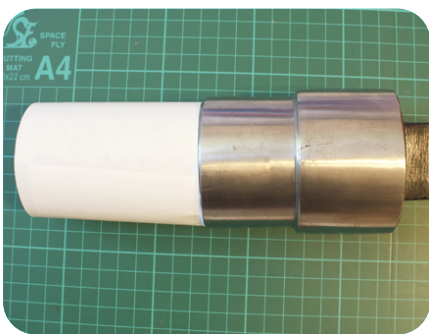
TOP TIP:

You will need a kiln for this project. If you haven't fired Art Clay Copper in your kiln before, do some test strips first to make sure you have the right firing schedule for your kiln.

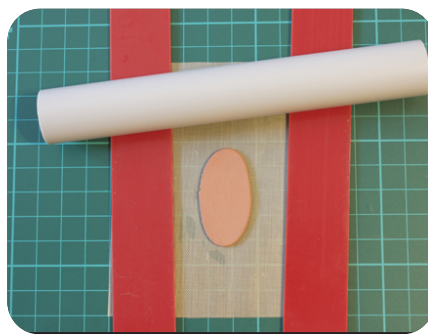
MATERIALS:

- Art Clay Copper 50g
- Swellegant or Vintaj Patina
- Badger Balm
- Clear Acrylic Roller
- Spacer Set
- Clay Shaper & Brush Combo Tool
- Bracelet Mandrel
- Fibre Blanket
- Cross Action Tweezer
- Brass Brush
- Agate Burnisher
- Pro-polishing Pads
- Needle File Set
- Safety Pickling Compound
- Needle Tool
- Leaf Texture or Mould
- Ivy Leaf Cutter
- Teflon Sheets
- Kiln
- Baby Wipes
- Small Storage Pots
- Quenching Bowl & Water
- Dish Soap

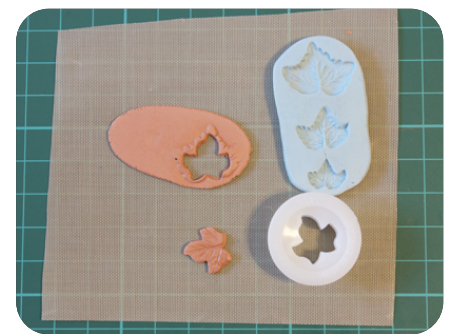
Instructions:



STEP 1: Start by creating a collar of freezer paper around your mandrel or bracelet shaping tool. Wrap the freezer paper, shiny side out, around the mandrel and tape it together.



STEP 2: Lubricate a non-stick work surface with badger balm or cool slip. Roll out 10g of Art Clay Copper to a depth of 2mm. Copper clay tends to thin out during firing so it's wise to roll it out a bit thicker than you would with silver clay to allow for this.



STEP 3: Release the rolled out clay from the work surface and texture it using a leaf mould or texture mat. Use a small ivy leaf cutter or template to cut out several leaves and set them aside to dry.



STEP 4: To make berries, pinch off small pieces of wet clay and roll between your fingers to make a ball. Allow them to dry. You will need approx 21. When the berries are dry, refine the edges with a baby wipe.



STEP 5: Put a pea-sized lump of wet clay onto a clean, dry work surface. Using an Acrylic Snake Maker, roll a long snake, approx. 10cm long. Make these quite chunky as copper clay shrinks and thins in the kiln.



STEP 6: Wet the snake with a paintbrush and lift it onto the mandrel (or other curved surface). Arrange the wet snake into a bird wing shape and form a loop at either end.



STEP 7: Make additional snakes and arrange them across the first one in a vine-like design. Keep each snake well lubricated so they don't crack. As you lay each one down, the water will create a bit of paste to adhere the design together.



STEP 8: If the vines have dried, run a very wet paintbrush over them and allow a couple of minutes for the clay to re-hydrate. Arrange and press your leaves and berries onto the vines whilst the clay is wet. Set the piece aside to dry.



STEP 9: When the clay has completely dried, paint a small amount of water onto the vines to soften the surface slightly. Use a sharp needle tool to scratch small lines quite deep into the vines to texture them. Allow the design to dry completely.



STEP 10: When the design is dry, gently peel away the freezer paper and tidy up any ragged edges. Refine the back with a baby wipe. A damp cotton bud can be used in difficult to reach places.



STEP 11: Prepare for firing by rolling up a fibre blanket into a supportive form. Lay the piece on a fibre blanket and then cover the top with another fibre blanket. Fire in a preheated kiln at 970°C for 30min. After firing - quench immediately, pick off any remaining firescale and pickle if necessary.



STEP 12: Brush the piece vigorously with a brass brush in soapy water to bring the copper to a satin finish. Or, for a mirror finish, use decreasing grades of polishing papers or burnish in a polishing tumbler.



STEP 13: Attach an appropriately sized length of copper chain to each loop on the component and finish with a clasp. Paint the entire ivy section of the bracelet with Swellegant Patina Tiffany Green/Rust or Vintaj Weathered Copper patinas. Leave the patina to develop for several hours.



STEP 14: If using a natural patina like Swellegant, the copper will initially turn a matte brown shade, changing to yellow, then moss green, and finally a blue/green verdigris hue.



STEP 15: To remove most of the patina, leaving the verdigris only in the recesses, use a wet brass brush or jewellery grade steel wool to scrub away the patina from the highlights. Follow with a pro-polishing pad to brighten the copper.

Happy Making! x