



Crushed Mineral Accents

A Must Keep

Product Review

Projects

by
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With Crushed Mineral (CMA) Accents it is easy to add a bit of colour and sparkle to your Art Clay.

The Crushed Mineral Accents are prepared from large pieces of minerals, including coloured Cubic Zirconia. The small particles are really sparkly and lustrous. They are excellent for giving a drusy look to your pieces. They're more affordable than colour-coated drusys, they allow you more artistic freedom, and you don't have to struggle with more advanced methods of setting a shaped stone after firing.

The CMA looks striking when you combine two (or more) colours. For instance, a deep dark colour like the Specular Hematite really complements the Purple Gold.

Most of the CMA Accents can be fired at 650°C without any colour changes. Some of the colours change at 800°C when fired at 30 minutes. See the table at the end of this document for details on colour stability of each colour.

Setting the CMA into the clay

This document describes some of the ways of setting the CMA. You can create a recess in your piece, which will allow the CMA to be set level with the surface of your piece, or you can set it on top of the surface, by making a ridge with clay, paste or syringe. We recommend that you inlay the CMA into a recessed region so the CMA is protected against abrasion.

Don't quench a piece with CMA inclusions as this

might crack the particles. As long as the CMA has been set properly you can tumble it without any problems.

High temperature methods

1) Pre-firing. Simply press the CMA into the wet clay and fire. Make sure the frit is captured by the clay. Depending on the amount of CMA you use, this gives a domed effect to the piece, which can look really nice. Please check the temperature you can fire at in the chart at the end of the document.

2) Pre-firing. Add a thick line of syringe or paste to your piece, and capture the CMA in this. Use a damp brush to push the paste/syringe close around the frit, to make sure it is held in properly. Please check the temperature you can fire at in the chart at the end of the document.

3) Post-firing, using enamel. After firing, polish your piece using a burnisher or abrasive paper/sponges, or a tumbler. Make a slurry out of Clear Enamel and water. Apply a thin layer to your piece and press the CMA into it until it is captured. Wait for it to fully dry, and fire at about 800°C for 2-3 minutes.

Low temperature methods

4) Fire your piece and set the CMA in resin. After firing, polish your piece. Use a clear two-part epoxy resin. Apply the resin to your piece, push the CMA frit into the epoxy, and cure as per the manufacturer's instructions - usually by room temperature.

5) Fire your piece and set the CMA in Pebeo Vitrea160 Gloss Medium (a thermosetting resin). After firing, polish your piece. Apply the Gloss Medium to your piece and push the CMA frit into it. Allow to dry for 24 hours, then cure in a domestic oven at 150-160°C for 40 minutes. The Gloss Medium will cure to a clear, strong, water resistant layer which is nearly invisible underneath the CMA. The Gloss Medium can be removed with acetone, which allows you to

re-work a setting if needed.

Colour stability chart

Note: Colour changes can provide richer colours or great alternatives!

Crushed Mineral Accents are easy to use, non-toxic, and relatively safe. However, the particles

have sharp edges so could be a severe eye irritant. Be careful when handling CMA to avoid getting particles into your eyes. Don't touch your eyes whilst handling this product. If particles get into the eyes, flush them with water immediately and contact a doctor. Avoid inhaling the particles. Work safely, wear gloves, keep away from your eyes, and wash your hands after use.

	650 °C / 35min	810 °C / 7min	900 °C / 30min	
Cubic Zirconia				
Peridot - CZ13a	Yes	Yes	Turns "raw diamond"	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Lavender - CZ14	Yes	Yes	Yes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Amethyst - CZ14a	Yes	Yes	Yes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Orange - CZ16	Yes	Yes	Yes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Garnet - CZ18	Yes	Yes	Yes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Violet - CZ19a	Yes	Yes	Yes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Aqua - CZ28	Turns peridot	Turns light amber	Turns light amber	4, 5
Blue Sapphire - CZ29a	Turns green	Turns pale green	Turns dark amber	4, 5
Green - CZ32	Yes	Turns light green	Turns dark amber	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Deep Emerald Green - CZ36	Yes	Yes	Turns brown	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Other Minerals				
Medium Green - YAG - G12	Yes	Yes	Yes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Apatite	Yes	Yes	Turns colorless	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Rainbow Hematite	Yes	Yes	Turns reddish	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Specular Hematite	Yes	Yes	Yes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
SiChrome™				
SiChrome™ Blue	Yes	Yes	Yes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
SiChrome™ Gold	Yes	Yes	Yes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
SiChrome™ Teal	Yes	Yes	Yes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Gold				
Purple Gold	Yes	No	No	1, 4, 5
Blue Gold	No	No	No	4, 5