

# The Stud Maker™ by Clément Marquaire

The Stud Maker™ by Clément Marquaire is a specialized metal clay tool designed to create professional stud earrings with perfectly centered, embedded posts, eliminating the need for soldering or pasting.

You can use the Stud Maker with all metal clays, including bronze, copper, and of course silver too.

It is available in 4 shapes: Hexagon, Triangle, Square and Round. Each shape includes 6 sizes, and you can make your studs 1.5, 3 or 5mm thick.

Inside the Stud Maker, you'll find two 1.5mm round thickness guides to help you roll your clay evenly. Flip The Stud Maker over to use the built-in cutters that press crisp, uniform shapes with ease. Integrated slots allow you to securely embed earring posts directly into your clay, creating strong and centered studs with a flawless back every time.

Beyond traditional studs, The Stud Maker also allows you to create embedded post pads in two sizes, 4mm and 8mm, which can later be attached to larger clay designs.

## 1. Tool Preparation

- **Select Your Shape:** Choose from round, hexagon, triangle, or square tool bodies.
- **Set Thickness:** Adjust the thickness of your stud (1.5mm, 3mm, or 5mm) by adding or removing the internal thickness guides.
  - *Note:* Two guides provide a 1.5mm thickness; leaving one results in 3mm, and removing both guides allows for a 5mm thickness.
- **Apply Release Agent:** Apply a release agent like CoolSlip or olive oil to the cutter and the pusher to prevent sticking.

## 2. Cutting the Base Shape

- **Prepare the Clay:** Roll out your metal clay to the desired thickness.
- **Cut the Studs:** Press the tool firmly into the clay. You can cut a single pair or an entire sheet at once for production.
- **Remove Excess:** Clear away the excess clay from around the tool while the cut shapes remain inside the cutter.

## 3. Embedding the Posts

- **Insert Posts:** Push your earring posts (e.g., titanium or silver) into the clay, guiding them into the holes in the tool. Lay the tool flat on your table and use a slightly pointed tool, like a ball burnisher or similar to push the posts all the way in until they are embedded in the clay.
- **Secure the Post into the Pad:**
  - Add a tiny drop of water to the clay surface to increase stickiness.
  - Place a small amount of fresh clay over the post pads and press down firmly to lock them into the stud body.
  - Trim any excess clay hanging over the edge so you have a clean shape..

## 4. Drying and Removal

- **Dry Completely:** Place the tool in a dehydrator (up to 70°C) for about an hour, or air dry in a warm spot for 4–5 hours.
- **Check Dryness:** Use a pointy tool to press against the clay; if it feels solid and the tool doesn't sink in, it is ready.
- **Eject Studs from Tool:**
  - 1. Unscrew the cutter (top part) from the pusher (bottom part).
  - 2. Use a small ball stylus or pointy tool to gently push through the holes in the back, popping the finished studs out of the cutter.

## 5. Refining and Texturing (Optional)

- **Add Texture to Dry Clay:** If you didn't texture the wet clay, you can moisten the surface of the dry stud with water and press it firmly into a texture tile.
- **Clean Edges:** Use a scalpel or abrasive sponge to remove any "flashing" or rough rims created during the pressing process.

## 6. Firing and Finishing

- **Fire:** Fire the pieces according to the specific requirements of your metal clay.
- **Patina:** For bronze or silver, you can apply a patina (like Black Max) to highlight textures.
- **Polish:** Use a micro-motor with sanding discs (e.g., 220 grit) and radial bristle discs to achieve a high shine.

## Making embedded post to use on separate designs

Beyond traditional studs, The Stud Maker also allows you to create embedded post pads in two sizes, 4mm and 8mm, which can later be attached to larger clay designs.

- Unscrew the tool and find the interior half-dome shaped slots in the center golden circle at the base of the tool.
- Oil or add Cool Slip to the halfdomes
- Roll out a little clay to about 1.5mm thick, and place the tool on top the clay and push down so the clay fills the holes.
- Push your ear posts into the clay - whilst keeping the tool on the table (this is so the posts don't push through too far).
- Put some more clay in on top of where the ear posts have left a hole in the clay.
- Turn the tool over so the clay is now facing down on your worksurface, and push on top the tool with a large flat tool like a snake maker.
- Clean up and leave to dry. You now have neatly embedded posts ready to fix onto larger or different shaped designs - so not just studs!

### Top Tip:

If the tool becomes stuck due to dried clay, do not force it. Submerge the tool in a pot of water for 20–30 minutes to dissolve the residue and separate the parts easily.