

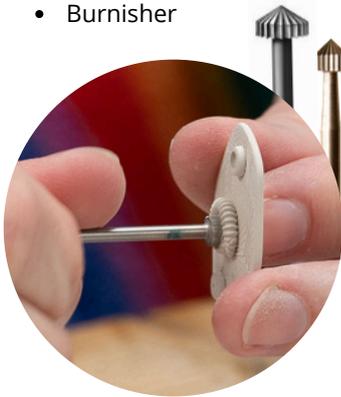
Stone setting with Burrs



Create professional stone settings with this guide by the wonderful Joy Funnell!

Materials needed:

- Non-stick work surface
- Dried Art Clay Silver Clay piece
- Pencil to mark clay
- Dish to collect silver dust
- Fireable round gemstone
- Busch Stone Setting Burr - same size as your stone
- Various sized drill bits
- Firing tool
- Brass brush
- Burnisher



Good to know

Use Joy's Tubey cutters to create perfect sized circles.

Use the same size burr as the stone you are setting.

The clay will shrink around the stone and secure it in place once fired.

If you struggle to keep your drill bit central, try a pin vice to hold the drill bit in place!

SCAN FOR VIDEO GUIDE



Create the perfect stone setting

1. **PREPARE YOUR DESIGN** - Make and dry your metal clay. Decide where you'll set your stones and mark the centre using a pencil. **If the piece is thinner than the stone is high, use raised layers that are thick & wide enough - take into account the shrinkage.** Raised layers can be plain, or part of making the design interesting when decorated, textured, or shaped from a mould. The fossil design in the centre of Joy's piece was made with the [Roll Maker Set](#).
2. **CHOOSE YOUR STONES & BURRS** - Choose a [fireable gemstone](#) and gather a [Busch Burr](#) that is the same size as your chosen stone, so for a 3mm stone use a 3mm burr. You'll also need a smaller drill bit to create a pilot hole.
3. **DRILL** - Find the mark you made earlier. Use the smaller drill, position it in the centre of your mark, hold perpendicular and start drilling. Support the back of the piece with your hands or on a rubber block, depending on what you're comfortable with. Drill all the way through. You usually leave a hole behind a stone to aid cleaning and (depending on the design) as an "azure" which lets light in from the back of the stone = sparkle! Start with a small drill bit and work your way up if you intend on setting a larger stone. [Use a diamond dish](#) to save your valuable dust from drilling - turn this into paste or clay again.
4. **STONE SETTING BURR** - Now use the Busch burr to create the shaped hole your stone will sit in. Position your burr in the centre of the hole, and start turning gently. Keep the burr perpendicular, you don't want an oval or wonky hole for the stone. Support the back of your piece. The stone should sit deep enough to not be pushed out during firing when the clay shrinks. The surface ("table") of the stone should just about level with, or ever so slightly under, the surface of the clay. If the stone sits too high, pop it out and continue carefully twisting the burr until the correct depth is achieved.
5. **FIRE THE PIECE** - Fire your silver - check the instructions for the clay you are using.
6. **FINISH** - Clean your silver using a brass brush. If using a jewellery quality brass brush it won't damage fireable CZ type stones. For added shine, burnish the surface and edges. **TOP TIP:** if you don't have a burnisher, you can use a metal knitting needle or the back of a smooth spoon.