



Summer Treasures

A Must Keep

Product Review

Projects

By MC Maker,
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Project Level: Beginner to Intermediate

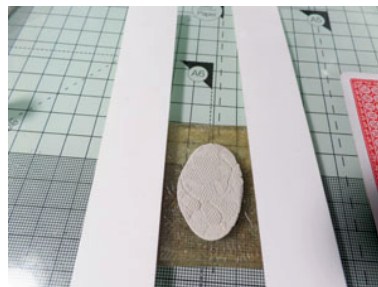
Materials:

- * Art Clay Silver Clay 10g
- * Art Clay Silver Syringe 5g
- * Badger Balm
- * 3mm Round Kiln Safe CZ
- * Marquise Kiln Safe CZ
- * XL Longlife Patina Gel
- * Clear Acrylic Roller
- * Spacer set (or playing cards)
- * Pam East Two Texture Mat No 7
- * QuikArt Clay Saving Template
- * QuikArt Stylus Needle Tool Fine

- * Activated coconut carbon
- * Stainless Steel Tweezers
- * Stone Setting Burr 3mm
- * Brass Brush Medium
- * Economy Agate Burnisher
- * 3M Polishing Papers
- * Pro-polishing Pads
- * Sunshine Polishing Cloth
- * Non-stick work surface



Step 1: Divide clay into two pieces, wrap in cling film, and roll out each piece separately. Roll the first piece to 6 cards thick. Lubricate the deep texture stamp with badger balm and place the rolled clay on top.

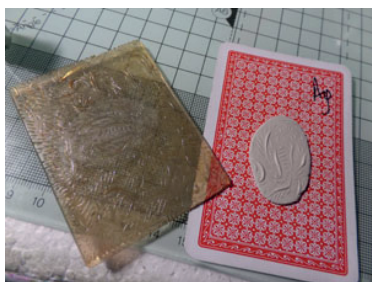


Step 2: Place rolled clay onto the texture and roll out 5 cards/1.25mm thick. *Roll clay firmly in one direction only. Peel off carefully from the texture and lay clay onto an oiled playing card with the texture facing up.



Step 3: Place 6 cards/1.25mm spacers either side of the clay to support the template while cutting out. Lubricate the stylus tool, and hold it like a pen. With the pin perpendicular to the clay, work smoothly around all edges. Use the pin to pick out any excess clay and cut the joins.

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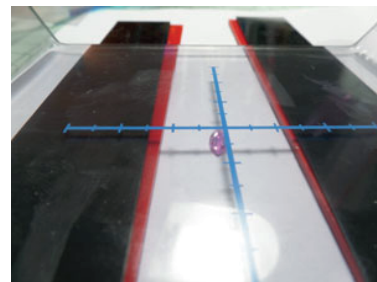


Step 4: Repeat Step #1, but this time, roll clay 5 cards thick and add the texture at 4 cards / 1mm.

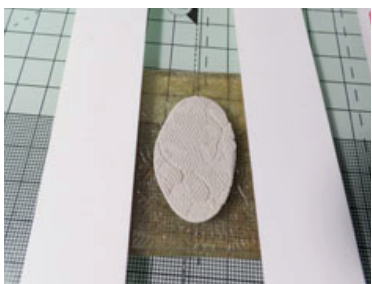
Use the Pam East shallow texture.



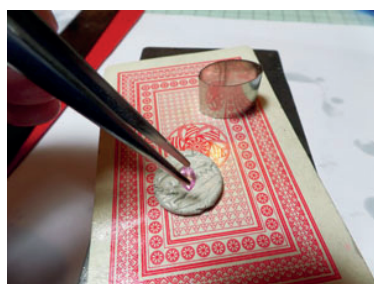
Step 5: Mark holes in wet clay with a cocktail stick for jump rings. Place pendants on oiled playing cards and leave to air dry for 30-60 mins. * Allowing them to dry naturally before placing on a hot plate or dehydrator prevents warping.



Step 6: To make a dangle with the deeper texture, place marquise stone flat against your surface. To measure the depth of the stone from table to collet, stack playing cards/spacers on either side and lay a piece of Perspex/snake maker on top until the stone doesn't move beneath it.



Step 7: Roll out a piece of clay to this thickness (including texture) to accommodate the depth of the stone. Place piece on an oiled playing card, texture facing up.



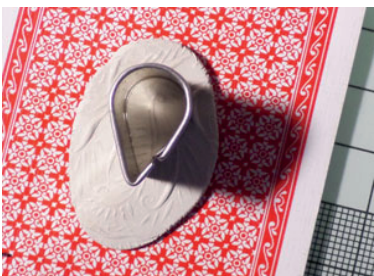
Step 8: Pick up the stone with tweezers, collet (pointy end) facing down, and place in the centre of the clay. Tap down with tweezers until embedded evenly in the clay, with the table just below the clay's surface level.



Step 9: Oil an oval cutter and place it over the stone to centre it before pressing down vertically into the clay. Lift it cleanly without wiggling. Mark places where jump rings are needed with a cocktail stick. Dry as per step 5.



Step 10: Once dry, cut loop at the top of thinner piece with a scalpel. Round off edges with a sanding pad. Dampen the back of the circle piece and top of the pendant, join with syringe clay, and press together. Clean up excess with a paintbrush and leave to dry.



Step 11: Roll out remaining clay to 4 cards thick on the shallow texture. Cut 2 pieces with a small teardrop cutter. Mark one with a jump ring hole at the pointy end, and the other with a hole in the center of the rounded part. Leave to dry.



Step 12: Use a damp paintbrush to attach the top surface of the pointed tip, and the back of the pointed end of the pendant. Join with syringe clay, clean excess, and dry thoroughly.

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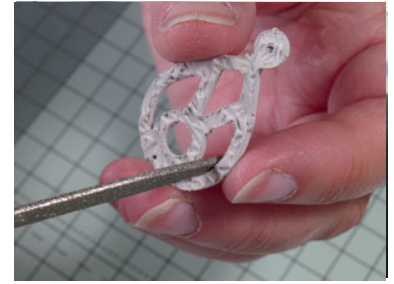


Step 13: Set a 3mm round CZ into the round washer at the top of the pendant, in front of the hanger by either:

(a) Drill a hole using a 3mm stone setting burr until the stone sits below the surface of the clay. Dampen the hole, and position stone firmly making sure it's level. Dry again.



OR (b) Syringe a generous blob of paste into the centre of the washer, taking care not to introduce air bubbles. Place the CZ in the centre paste and press down gently, keeping it level and below the surface of the paste. Dry again.



Step 14: Sand sides of both pendants with sanding pads, working from coarse to fine until completely smooth. Sand inside the negative spaces with mini files, sanding sticks, or fine sandpaper. Drill holes for jump rings with a 1.2mm bit in a pin vice. Clean CZs with dry cocktail sticks to remove clay, then with a cotton bud dampened with white spirit.



Step 15: Fire according to your clay's firing instructions. Allow to cool naturally on a kiln shelf, and do not quench! This could cause the CZ stones to shatter.



Step 16: Brush briskly with a brass brush, dipping it in water and washing up liquid.



Step 17: Use an agate burnisher to flatten all prominent surfaces and bring up the shine. Polish with 3M polishing papers, going from coarse to fine.



Step 18: Use hot water and washing up liquid to degrease the pieces. Mix a few tablespoons of hot water with XL Gel, stirred with a cocktail stick. Using plastic tweezers, take the pieces out of the solution and into the liver of sulphur, and keep lifting out to view progress.



Step 19: Once at the desired colour, lift out with tweezers and put into cold clean water to neutralise, then dry with kitchen paper.



Step 20: Buff edges and high points with Pro-Polishing pads to remove some oxidation, to contrast shiny surfaces and dark parts of the texture. Give everything a final polish with a Sunshine cloth. Add jump rings and hang from chain, ribbon, cord as desired.