



Torch Firing Art Clay

A Must Keep

Product Review

Projects

by
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Torch firing is a great, inexpensive, way to fire your metal clay. You can use a small butane gas torch, like a kitchen torch, to fire all the Art Clay Silver clays.

The piece you fire shouldn't be much larger than a £2 coin, and weigh no more than 25 grams.

- The manufacturer doesn't recommend you torch fire items that include cores of Cork Clay. However, I know of a lot of people who have had success with this - taking their time and being careful. Torch firing is not suitable for projects that include glass, ceramic or porcelain.
- You can fire fine silver findings and small gemstones (5mm or under) suitable for silver clay with the torch.
- Small, appliqué-sized pieces of Art Clay Paper Type can be torched, but whole sheets or large pieces must be kiln fired.
- Art Clay Gold Paste and Accent Gold for Silver can be fired onto Art Clay Silver, using the torch. Use an agate burnisher to help bond the gold to the silver, by gently burnishing whilst the piece is still hot. Re-heat and burnish as needed.

Directions

- Place the dry piece on a ceramic fibre firing brick. The piece **MUST** be completely dry.
- Be sure to read the instructions included with the torch before you begin to fire. When you purchase a

torch it is empty. The fuel required is cigarette lighter butane.

- Dim the lights in the room to help you see the glow during firing. This is how you tell what temperature the piece is at.
- Switch on the gas torch and direct the flame at a 45° angle at a distance of about 5 centimetres. This distance will vary depending on the torch you are using and the size of the piece.
- Move the flame around the piece to heat it evenly. You will see a little smoke and flame as the non-toxic organic binder burns away. A white crystalline coating will appear.
- When the piece begins to glow peach (see the colour chart to the below), begin to time the firing. Continue to heat, keeping the glow, for the recommended length of time. If the piece glows a darker red, move the torch further away from the piece, and if you can't see the glow move the torch nearer.

