

Update #1: Collage of Textures

March 2014

The Handbook of Metal Clay: Textures and Forms (2nd edition), pp. 8 -20.

This project can now be done with multiple metals. In choosing the metals I would avoid metals that do not have sufficiently high contrast between them, such as:

- Champagne Bronze and Dark Champagne Bronze
- Friendly Rose Rose Bronze and Friendly Copper
- White Satin and Low Shrinkage Steel XT

In the pieces below I used Friendly Copper, Champagne Bronze, and Low Shrinkage Steel XT. For the overlays, I could have used Dark Champagne and White Satin instead.



Preparing the backing layer (p. 8): When making a flat or wavy piece with overlays in three metals, the backing layer should be made out of Low-shrinkage Steel XT, 6-8 cards thick, depending on the size of the piece. (Steel is light-weight and does not make the piece heavy.) The overlays should be about half the thickness of the backing layer.

Sealing (Step 12, p. 12): Seal the gaps between the top and bottom layers with Steel clay.

Firing: 2 hours at 1750°F/955°C (brick kiln); 1800°F/980°C (muffle kiln).



Always dry the backing layers completely before adding the overlays. Steel shrinks a lot while drying and tends to warp. Watch the steel while it's drying and flip it from side to side until it stabilizes.



For a way to make a wavy piece see "Quilt" project in *Mixed Metal Jewelry from Metal Clay*, p. 119.