
Update #2: Concave Earrings

March 2014

The Handbook of Metal Clay: Textures and Forms (*2nd edition*), pp. 21 -23.

This project can be done with a single one-fire metal – White Satin, for example – in which case the process is the same as in the book, except for the firing temperature. Alternatively, it can be done with multiple metals, as explained below.

P. 22, Variation 1

This is best done with Friendly Copper and Friendly Bronze and fired once at mid-fire schedule (1510°F – brick kiln; 1560°F – muffle kiln). It is not recommended to make this project with high-fire clays; in this project the different clays are “married” (touching each other) and at high temperature they are most likely to alloy. Stains of bronze will appear on the copper surface.

If you want to make this project with high-fire clays, separate the contour lines of the different clays with a carving tool, so there is a visible space between them. If you are using two clays, use the one with the lowest shrinkage rate as a backing layer. If you use more than two clays, use Low-shrinkage Steel XT as a backing layer and as a filler between the layers.

P. 23, Variation 2

Same update as above.



My favorite tool for carving dry clay is an old compass. It is sharp, strong, thin, and stable.

