



Hadar Jacobson

Art in Metal Clay

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A Little Bit of History

As mentioned in the introduction to my book: *Silver and Bronze Clay: Movement and Mechanisms*, I have been experimenting with making copper and bronze clay for several years now. These are photos of early attempts, that were published on my website in 2004 at this link: http://artinsilver.com/exp_series/index.htm.



These pieces were actually fired with a torch with full success. However, the results were not as consistent as they are when the dry clay is fired in activated carbon. The activated carbon technique was an important development introduced to the public in summer 2008 by chemist Bill Struve of Metal Adventures, Inc.

My formula for making the clay has not changed over the years, since I liked the consistency of the clay and enjoyed working with it. The little information I had about making the clay was based on a lot of reading, both published books and free online information, and, of course, a lot of experimentation. However, sticking to my old formula has posed a lot of firing problems, even with activated carbon, and only recently have I reached a reliable firing schedule for my clay. My research has not ended, though, and I am still experimenting with both different firing schedules and making clay from other metals.

Hadar Jacobson, February 2009.