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Art in Metal Clay

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One-fire Flex Clay Projects

Cutting with Embossing Folders

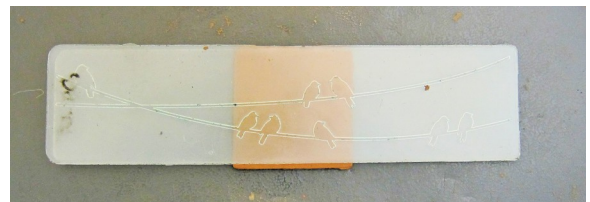
2-cards thick sheets are best for cutting with embossing folders. Both metal and plastic folders work.



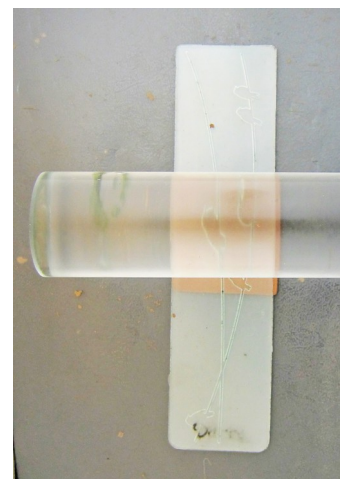
1. Roll your sheet to a thickness of 2 cards and dry it on the warming pan. If it warps while drying, keep flipping it over until it lies flat.
2. After drying let the sheet rest for an hour for better flexibility.



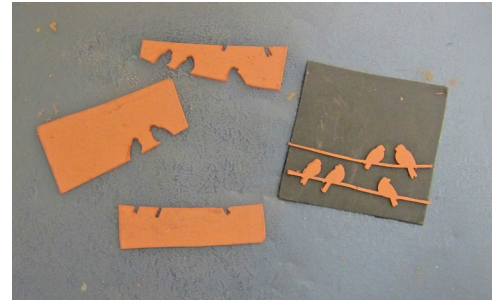
3. Place the sheet inside the folder. You will end up with two pieces: positive and negative.



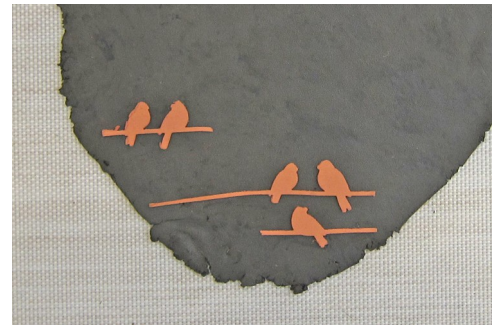
4. Roll the folder with the rolling pin using quite a bit of pressure. Alternatively, you can hammer the folder. The sheet will not break.



5. Separate the positive pieces from the negative ones.



6. Lay the positive pieces on top of a 4-card wet layer of clay. You can use the same clay or a different one, and it can be either Flex Clay or just One-fire Clay.



7. Cut the backing layer to the shape of your choice.



8. Assemble the negative part on top of a 4-card thick wet layer of clay. Again, this can be One-fire Flex Clay or One-fire Clay. In this case, the backing layer will only show through the empty spaces (the birds), and will be dark anyway when it comes out of the kiln. Therefore, it is not necessary to use a darker metal. It is best to use metal that has the same shrinkage rate and firing temperature.



9. Cut the Flex sheet and the backing layer to the shape of your choice.

Note: Since copper shrinks less than steel, the fired piece was bent backwards and needed to be hammered flat. Both layers in the example below were made from the same clay (Brilliant Bronze), and the piece came out flat.

