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One-fire Flex Clay Projects

## Embossing and Etching with Hand Tools

These projects were featured in my book: The Handbook of Metal Clay: Textures and Forms *(2nd edition). Top: "Concave Earrings", p. 21; bottom: Miro Pin (p. 53). The techniques were entirely different. Thick sheets of One-fire Flex Clay are not very flexible but they are very soft and lend themselves to carving, engraving, etching,and embossing with simple hand tools.*

1. Starting with the earrings, roll a layer of clay 6 cards thick and cut 2 small circles out of it. Dry them on the warmer; there is no need to flip it over. There is also no need to let the circles rest after drying.

2. With a pencil draw the design on the earrings: a wavy line along the middle and a circle touching the line. (If you want to change the design, don't use an eraser; just sand off the pencil marks.)
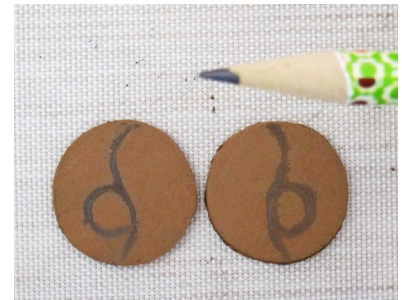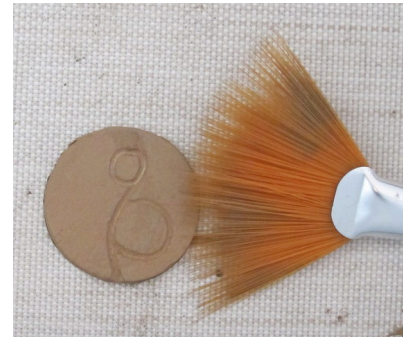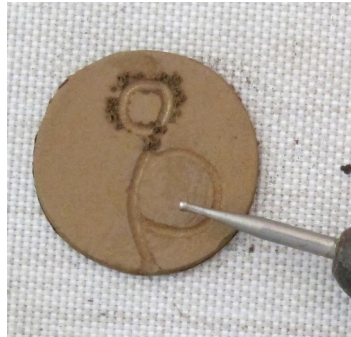
3. Etch the lines with either a small stylus, or better yet: a hand vise holing a pointed diamond-plated burr. If you made a mistake, just fill the etched part with fresh clay and try again.

4. Using the same technique, add another, smaller circle touching the other side of the line.

    After every round of etching, brush off the crumbs.

5. Using the same technique, add a coil inside the bigger circle. Add an indentation inside the smaller circle by holding your tool upright and twisting it until the indentation is deep enough.

6. Texture half the surface of the earring by scratching it with a needle tool or a wire brush. Texture the other half by poking the surface with the pointy diamond burr.

The Pin
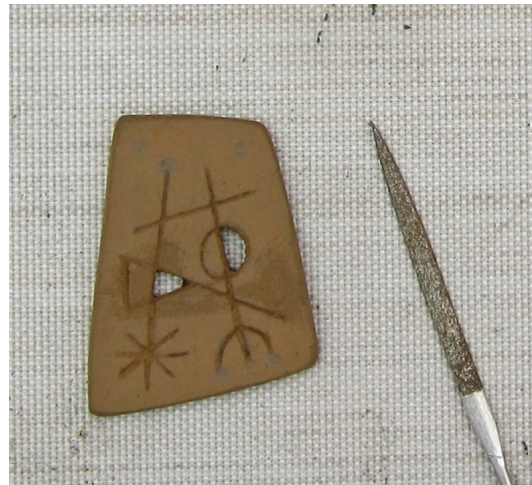
Draw   Etch   Brush

Cut out the empty
spaces by digging with
the diamond burr.

Refine the holes
with files.

Use a ball-head diamond
burr to indent the ends
of the line. Make a bigger
indentation inside the
star on the bottom left.

Set a stone in the bigger
indentation. Drill holes
for a chain by twisting
the burr all the way
through the layer.