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Art in Metal Clay

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One-fire Flex Clay Projects

Quilling

The quilling in this project is very basic, but it's a good start for using flexible clay for more complex projects such as weaving, knotting, folding an braiding.

- 1. Roll 2 strips of clay, 2-cards thick, and about 6" long. Dry them. You can also roll a whole sheet and cut it with scissors when it's dry.
- 2. After drying let the strip rest for an hour for better flexibility. Condition it by wiggling it along its length. (You can see this in the video "How Flexible is One-fire Flex Clay?".
- 3. Roll a layer of the same clay (either One-fire or One-fire Flex), 6 cards thick. Cut 1" long pieces out of one strip. Shape each piece into a drop, and press it into the backing layer.
- 4. Keep shaping the pieces of strip and press them into the backing layer side by side, until you've made a full circle. Wet the backing layer for better adhesion.









5. Wrap the second strip around the petals and press it into the backing layer. Use a circle cutter, about the same size as your circle, to even out the circle, then cut into the backing layer.



6. Optional: Now that the circle is stable, you can add a thicker strip of wet clay around the first one. Cut a short piece out of the remaining strip and press it into the backing layer inside one of the petals, as shown in the photo. You can use tweezers to hold the short strips.



7. Keep pressing short strips into the rest of the petals. Dry the whole piece.



8. Add a bail. In this case, another strip, longer then the diameter of the circle, was wrapped around it and connected to it at one point (the top). Another strip, half the length of the diameter, was then connected to the sides of the circle, with open space on top. A tube was inserted into the open space to keep its shape while it was drying.





After firing, the backing layer was colored with green and blue patinas.

