



Hadar Jacobson

Art in Metal Clay

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One-fire Sampler Beginners' Projects

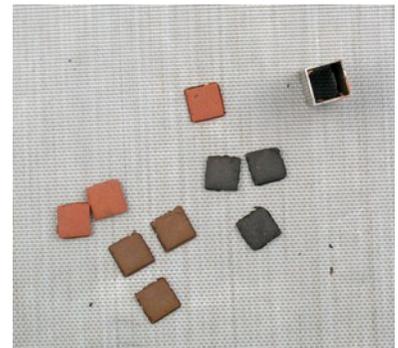
Mix 50 grams each of Friendly Copper, Low-shrinkage Steel XT, and Champagne Bronze. This amount should be enough for both projects. See mixing instructions video clip on YouTube

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IR72HKXsln4>) and Instruction Manual for Hadar's Clay (http://artinsilver.com/Quick-fire_clay_instruction_manual.pdf). (The mixing instructions and Instruction Manual can also be accessed directly from the right-hand pane of Hadar's Blog.)

Project 1

The technique used in these projects is called "overlay." The piece consists of a backing layer and small overlays.

1. Roll one layer each of Friendly Copper, steel, and Champagne Bronze, 3 cards thick.
2. With a small square tube, cut 3 squares of each clay. (If you don't have a square tube, just use your tissue blade). These will be the "overlays."
3. Roll a layer of steel, 6 cards thick. This will be the backing layer.



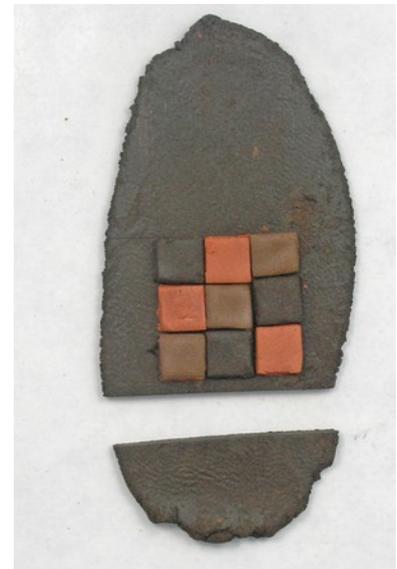
4. Arrange the squares on the steel layer as shown in the photo or in any other way that pleases your eyes.



When making flat pieces combining these three clays, the best choice for the backing layer is steel, twice as thick as the overlays. This will help prevent warping and cracking due to differences in shrinkage. With small pieces, copper and bronze can be used safely as the backing layer.



5. Using the tissue blade, cut a straight horizontal line at the bottom of the steel layer, about 2 mm away from the squares.



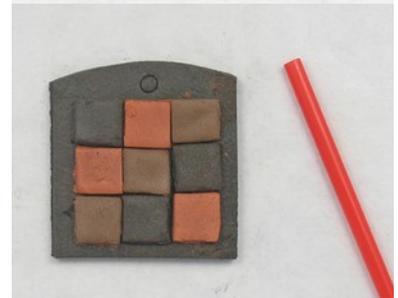
6. Cut two vertical square lines on each side of the steel layer, again, about 2 mm away from the cluster of squares.



7. Bend the tissue blade and cut a curved line at the top of the steel layer.



8. With a coffee stirrer or a narrow tube, cut a hole in the top of the steel layer at the center.



9. Spray the whole piece with water. Let it dry for a about an hour in the air. This will create a strong bond between the squares and the backing layer. Then dry it on a heating pan.

While this piece is drying, you can move on to the second project.

Project 2

Besides "overlay" this project uses a technique which I call "changing places." You can find more projects like this in my book: *The Handbook of Metal Clay: Textures and Forms*, pp. 21-26.



1. This time roll the backing layer first: a layer of steel, 6 cards thick.



2. Cut the layer to the desired shape, using the tissue blade or a shape cutter. Dry the layer on a coffee mug warmer. Flip the piece over and over until it stops curling.



3. Roll a layer of steel clay, 3 cards thick. Cut a narrow strip. As you can see in the photo, it does not have to be straight. Lay the strip on the backing layer.



4. Wet the backing layer and lay the strip on top of it.



5. Cut the strip to the desired length.



6. Repeat step 5 with Champagne Bronze. Lay it adjacent to the steel strip as shown, almost touching.



7. Cut the strip to the desired length.



8. Repeat steps 4 and 5 with Friendly Copper. Lay the copper strip adjacent to the bronze one.



9. Continue laying strips on the backing layer until you cover almost all of it.



10. Pick two straws of different sizes. Place one of the straws over part of a bronze strip and part of a steel strip and cut a circle. Remove the bronze half-circle and the copper half-circle and return them to your storage.



11. Roll a layer of Friendly Copper clay, 3 cards thick. Use the same straw to cut a circle out of it.



12. Carefully pick up the circle and drop it in the empty space.



13. Repeat steps 10-12 in another area of the piece, as shown in the photo.



14. Dry the piece on a warming pan.

15. Drill a hole at the top of the piece with a drill bit or a file.



Firing

Fill a round stainless steel pet dish halfway with coconut carbon. Place the piece on top of it.



Cover the pieces with more carbon, to the top of the box.
Place the box in the kiln, raised on posts.

Brick Kiln

Ramp at 1800°F/1000°C per hour to 1750°F/955°C
Hold for 2:00 hours

Muffle Kiln

Ramp at 1400°F/778°C per hour to 1830°F/999°C
Hold for 2:00 hours



You can see detailed instructions in the document entitled “One-fire Sampler Instruction Manual,” linked in the right-hand pane of my blog (http://hadarjacobson.com/Champagne_bronze_instruction_manual.pdf), or schedule S4 in the “Instruction Manual for Hadar’s Clay” (http://artinsilver.com/Quick-fire_clay_instruction_manual.pdf).

Finishing

The best way to reveal the contrast between the colors is to buff the surface with a coarse mini-fiber wheel or radial discs. If you don’t have these finishing tools yet, rub the pieces with a soft stainless steel brush. No patina is required.

Seal the finished pieces with an acrylic spray such as PYM II.

