



Möbius Strip Pendant

A Möbius Strip is an ancient shape, described in the 1858 by mathematician August Ferdinand Möbius. Essentially, a strip with a half-twist joined at the ends, it has unique mathematical properties – including the fact that it is a continuous loop with only one side and one edge. As a design element, it was a favorite of M. C. Escher and is visually striking as a large, single component (as we used it here) or repeated on a smaller scale as links in a larger piece. You can also subdivide Möbius Strips to get smaller strips with multiple twists that wind around each other. How far can your mind and your metal go?

Supplies

The Basics

Teflon sheet
Clay Roller/Slats
Badger Balm
Water and Brush
Scalpel
Baby Wipes

Clay

PMC Clay
We used PMC+ and our finished necklace weighs 35g.

Other Tools

“Crackle” Texture mat (SM2-CRK)
Tissue Slicing Blade (SB)

Finishing

Wire Brush
Tumbler/Shot
2” x2” Micro Polishing Pad
Agate Burnisher
Liver of Sulfur Gel

Soft Touch Pad Variety Pack (3MSTP4V)

Black cord or chain of your choice

Step-by-Step



- 1) Lightly coat surface of roller, hands, and texture mat with Badger Balm.
- 2) Condition your clay by gently kneading and compressing into a smooth ball. Roll the clay into a smooth, thick coil or “snake.” Lay the clay on the rubber mat and roll to a thickness of four slats (twelve cards). Carefully remove clay from the mat and lay flat and straight, smooth side down, on you Teflon sheet.

3) Using the tissue slicing blade, trim the flattened coil to the desired width. For a pendant, we suggest 5/8" to 3/4" wide. Trim the ends to create a flat strip that is 5" long.



4) Lay the strip on its side in a circle shape. It may help to draw a circle on a sheet of paper and lay the clay on the circle.

5) Where the ends join, flip over one side of the strip so that texture side meets the smooth side (a half twist.) Carefully adjust the strip to your liking – this is where the circle drawn on your work surface may help. You can move the twist around the strip. Depending on how wide the band is, you can also play with the slant of the sides. Your finished strip may appear balanced and symmetrical or more asymmetrical as - we chose to make our pendant.



6) Overlap the ends slightly and use the tissue slicing blade to make one cut through both ends at an angle. Remove the scrap and slide the ends together to create a diagonal joint. Join with PMC3 paste.

7) Let dry. Clean piece and polish the smooth side of the strip as much as possible before firing. Fire.

8) After firing, brush with a wire brush and then tumble. A little Shinebrite Burnishing Compound (SHNBRT) added to your tumbler water creates beautiful results.

9) For the smooth side of the strip, begin polishing smooth surfaces with the Soft Touch Pads. Start with the coarsest grit and move to the finest grit for a mirror finish.

10) Burnish high points on the texture side with an Agate Burnisher.

11) We used Liver of Sulfur to darken the deepest part of the crackle pattern for additional contrast. Because we wanted to limit the oxidation to the “cracks” in the crackle pattern, we didn’t dip the entire piece. Instead, we dipped a skewer in the Liver of Sulfur solution and “painted” the contrast into the cracks.

12) Finish with the 2”x2” Micro Polish Pad to create high shine.

13) To create our necklace, we used a simple black cord, a single bead, and a knot from our Easy Knotting Booklet (ESYKNTBOOK).