



“Mixed Media” Necklace

I enjoy browsing the pages of all the new “Mixed Media” publications. They are a great place to get some “eye candy” and inspiration. I have tried to recreate that sense of collage that is found in mixed media.

Supplies

The Basics

Teflon Sheet (TFLR)
Badger balm (BHM)
Water and brush
Scalpel (SCP-X)
Tissue slicing blade (SB)

Clay

PMC3 (our necklace weighs 12 grams)
PMC3 Paste

Other Tools & Components

4 Side 4 Grit Sander/Buffer (4SQBUFF)
Torch (T200 or MAXTORCH)
Brass Texture Plates
(BTTX-textile)
(BTPT-tiny pebble)
(BTFL-large flower)
20 Gauge Fine Silver Wire (FSWIRE-20)
Pattern Cutter Set (PCS5)
Round Component Mold (MOLD53165)
Small Drill (PVSET)

Finishing

Wire or Brass Brush
Tumbler/Shot
Shine Brite Polishing Compound (SHNBRT)
Agate Burnisher (BTSTONE)
2” x2” Ultra Polishing Pad (ULTPOLPAD)
Liver of Sulphur (LOSGEL-1)
Jeweler’s Black (JBLACK)

Silk ribbon for stringing
Small beads for embellishment

Step By Step

1) Start each project by making sure your clay is well conditioned and rolled into a smooth, compact ball. If you have used the piece of clay before, this step is especially important.

2) **Lightly** coat your hands, roller, texture mat, and work surface with Badger Balm.



3) Roll your clay to a thickness of one slat (three cards). Cut it into three pieces. Place a piece of clay on each brass plate and roll to a thickness of one card. Lift each piece off its brass plate and tear the edges into the shape you like. Set them aside to dry. If you want any pleats or curves, support them with fiber blanket while drying.



4) To create bails for the back of these pieces, wrap a round wooden toothpick with a small piece of a post-it note. I used only one wrap as I wanted a small bail. The sticky part of the note holds it together.



5) Roll a very thin piece of clay (one card) and cut it into three small rectangles. Wrap each piece around the toothpick, trimming with your scalpel if necessary and seal with PMC Paste. Let dry and attach to the back of the pieces with a little water and PMC3 Paste. Clean around the edges with a wet brush.



6) I used my "stash" of readymade beads and miscellaneous pieces in the next layer. When I am working on a project, and have a small amount of clay left over, I often just cut some "parts" or make some beads to use in the future. Some pieces were made with small balls of clay pressed between two texture mats until flat, creating a bead with textures on both sides. Others were made using Pattern Cutters and the pieces made from Component Mold 53165 make great beads (round on one side flat on the other).

7) One piece was made by tearing and distorting a small piece of cheese cloth and painting it with PMC Paste. Three or four coats should be enough for this application. Let dry between each coat.

8) Let all your components dry completely.

9) When the pieces are bone dry, drill a hole in the center of each, using the PVSET drill. Remember to allow for shrinkage in the firing when making the hole.

10) Refine any surfaces that need it. Mixed media pieces usually have a looser, edgier, look to them, so I left most of the pieces as they were. It does make a nice contrast to have a very smooth piece separating some more loosely created pieces. Fire according to the manufacturer's directions for the clay you are using. If you used fire blanket to prop any pieces to dry, use it to prop that piece again during firing.



Finishing

11) After firing, scrub the pieces with a wire brush and tumble for an hour with a little Shine Brite added to the water. After tumbling, decide what pieces you want to patina, and which patina to use. I used Liver of Sulfur on all of the bottom pieces, Jeweler's Black on a couple of pieces, and left some pieces with no patina.



12) Cut three pieces of fine silver 20 gauge wire several inches long. Hold the wire with a pair of tweezers and, using the torch, heat the end of each wire until a small "bead" forms. Quench in cool water.

13) Thread the pieces of silver, bead, etc onto the wire starting with the outer most component. I used some small turquoise beads to embellish this necklace.



14) When all the pieces are threaded onto the wire, place a small seed bead in your color theme on the back of the piece and bend the wire flat over it. Coil the wire around and flatten the coil tightly to the back of the piece. Cut off any excess wire. File any sharp wire ends.

15) A soft silk tubular ribbon was used for the cord. Center the middle piece and make a knot on each side of the bail. Decide on the placement of the other two pieces and secure each with two more knots. The ends of the ribbon could be knotted or finished with a clasp.