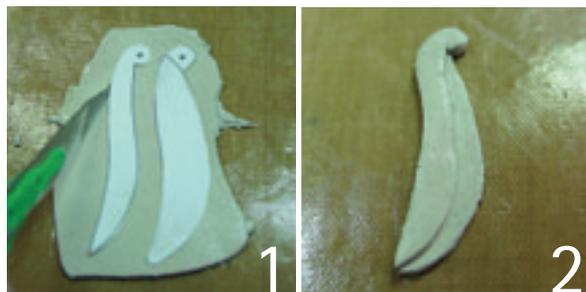


Metal medley earrings

Make earrings to complement the pendant shown on page 66 of the November 2004 issue of Art Jewelry magazine.

by Gordon Uyehara



[1–2] Cut and join the pieces. Roll out 5g of metal clay to a thickness of three playing cards (1mm). Cut one each of parts 1 and 2 from the clay. Coat the back of part 2 with slip and place it on top of part 1 with the left edges flush.





[3] Add the lines and drill the hole. Use a piece of $\frac{1}{32}$ -inch (.8mm) cardboard to mark the lines on part 1 as shown in reference figure 1. Use the point of a diamond tip jeweler's file to drill a hole in the top of the earring.

Repeat steps 1–3. To make a second earring, reverse the patterns for parts 1 and 2 so you have a mirror image of the first earring.

Cut the discs. Roll out a small piece of clay. Cut two discs that measure $\frac{3}{16}$ inch (4.7mm) in diameter—use a plastic circle template or soda straw to make accurate circles with the correct interior diameter.

Dry the pieces. Let all the pieces dry thoroughly.

[4] Refine the discs. Use a needle file and then 400- and 600-grit sandpaper to smooth the surfaces. Determine the placement of the discs on the earrings.

Mark the design shown in reference figure 2 on the clay discs. Use a carving tool to engrave the design in the circles. Brush slip on the back of the circles and place one on each earring.

Finalize and fire the earrings. Add slip to any visible seam lines. Refine the earrings with needle files and 400- and 600-grit sandpaper.

Fire the earrings on a kiln fiber blanket, following the metal clay manufacturer's firing directions.

Finishing. Polish the pieces in a centrifugal magnetic finisher or use a stainless-steel brush to give the pieces a satin finish. Polish the discs with 1200-grit sandpaper (or higher) if you want a high gloss on them. If you desire, patina the pieces with liver of sulfur following the manufacturer's directions. Use a polishing cloth to bring out the detail in the pieces.

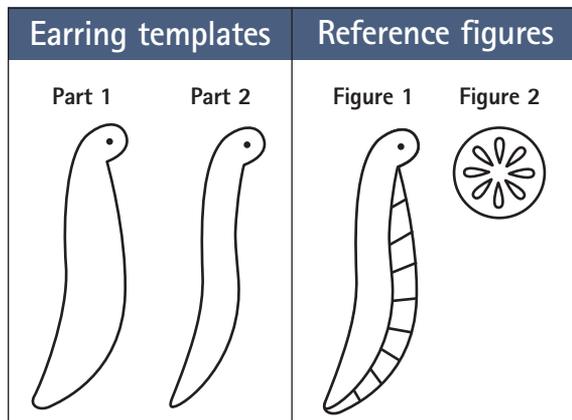
[5] Attach the ear wires. Cut a 4-inch (10cm) piece of wire. Make the first part of a large wrapped loop near one end. Slide the loop through the hole at the top of the earring. Finish the wraps. Slide on a 5mm silver bead. Make another wrapped loop just beyond the bead. Open the loop on the earring wire, slide the wrapped loop onto it, and close the loop. Repeat with the other earring.

materials

- 10g metal clay
- Olive oil or hand balm
- 10g metal-clay slip or paste
- $\frac{1}{32}$ -inch (.8mm) cardboard
- Circle template or plastic soda straw, $\frac{3}{16}$ inch (4.7mm) in diameter
- 8 inches (20cm) 20-gauge wire
- 2 5mm round silver beads
- Pair of earring findings
- Liver of sulfur
- Polishing cloth

tools

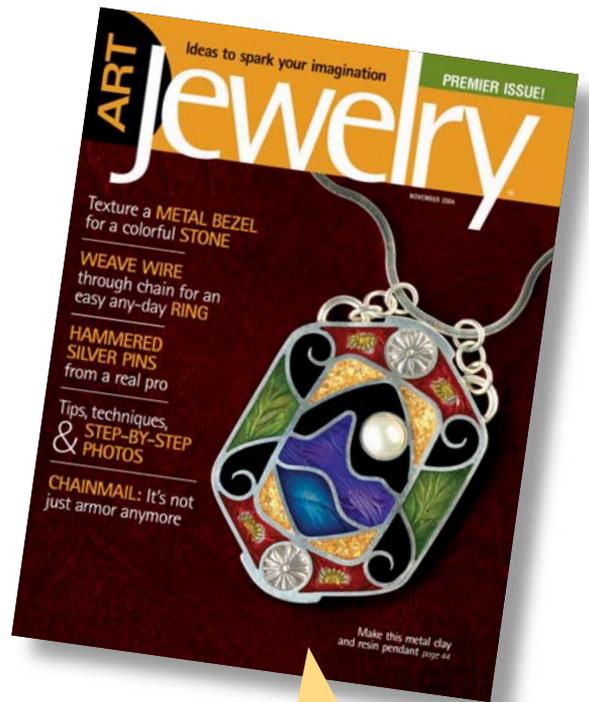
- Paper and pencil
- Playing cards or cardboard strips (1mm)
- Plastic roller
- Craft knife or tissue blade
- 3 5x $\frac{3}{2}$ -inch (12.7x8.8cm) plastic work surface sheets
- Diamond-tip, half-round, and flat jeweler's files
- Food dehydrator or hot plate (optional)
- Small paintbrush
- 400-, 600-, and 1200-grit sandpaper
- Soft kiln fiber blanket
- Kiln fiber board
- Centrifugal magnetic finisher or stainless steel brushes
- Dust mask (optional)
- Wire cutter
- Chainnose and roundnose pliers



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