

# RE-MOISTURIZING AND KNEADING METAL CLAY

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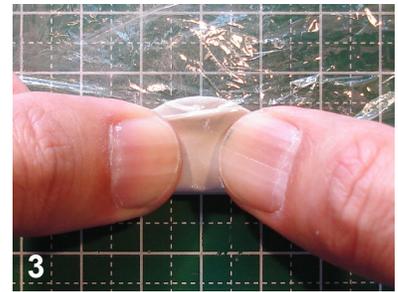
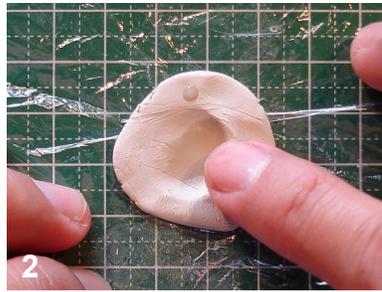
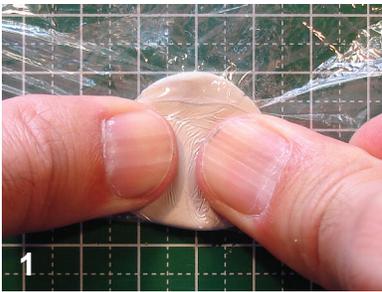
Unlike other clays, metal clay dries quickly. Fortunately, you can easily add water back into the clay. Here's how to do it effectively. Note that it is easier to knead a smaller lump than the whole package at once.

Work under a plastic food (e.g. Saran) wrap. Some folks like to use a sliced open sandwich bag. Change the wrap once it develops holes or if it becomes too dirty.

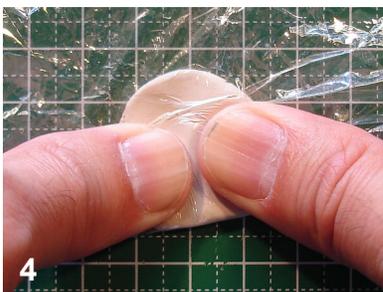
## Materials and Tools

Metal clay lump  
Roller (acrylic or pvc pipe)  
Rigid work surface  
Plastic food wrap  
Page protector (optional)  
Water (distilled if your water is too hard)

1. With the clay sandwiched between the folded plastic wrap, flatten it with your thumbs.
2. Add one drop of water to the middle of the *flattened lump* - use your finger or paintbrush.



3. *Fold the clay over* the drop of water.
4. Again, compress your lump by pressing down on it with your thumbs and *repeatedly folding it over*. Add another drop of water to your *flattened lump* and repeat the process until your lump is soft. Knead each drop of water in well before determining if you need more water.



5. If your clay has hard lumps, roll it to compress it more (easier to smash the lumps).
6. Firmly compress the lump into a ball to finish.

The object of this process is to work the water *into* the clay rather than just spreading it around the surface (making it messy on the outside, while the middle is still dry). If your clay remains crumbly, knead in some newer clay. Remember air and dry hands drawn moisture from the clay. So work within the plastic wrap as much as possible and only take out your clay when you are ready to start your project.