

Jewelry Making With Precious Metal Clay

Introduction

Welcome to the fascinating world of jewelry making with precious metal clay (PMC)! This versatile and exciting material has taken the crafting world by storm, captivating artists and hobbyists alike with its endless creative possibilities.

PMC is a unique clay-like substance composed of tiny particles of pure silver or gold suspended in an organic binder. When heated to a high temperature, the binder burns away, leaving behind a solid piece of metal. This process, known as firing, transforms the delicate clay into a durable and beautiful piece of jewelry.

The beauty of PMC lies in its accessibility and ease of use. Unlike traditional metalworking techniques, which

require specialized tools and extensive training, PMC can be worked with simple household items and basic jewelry-making tools. This makes it an ideal material for beginners and experienced jewelry makers alike.

In this comprehensive guide, we will embark on a journey through the world of PMC jewelry making. We will explore the different types of PMC, the essential tools and materials needed to get started, and the basic techniques for working with this versatile material. We will also delve into advanced PMC techniques, such as metal clay inlay, mokume gane, and granulation, to help you create truly unique and stunning pieces of jewelry.

Whether you are a seasoned jewelry maker looking to expand your skills or a complete beginner eager to explore the world of metalworking, this book will provide you with the knowledge and inspiration you need to create beautiful and lasting pieces of PMC

jewelry. So, let's dive in and discover the endless possibilities of precious metal clay!

Book Description

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of jewelry making with precious metal clay (PMC) and discover the endless creative possibilities it offers.

PMC, a unique and versatile material, allows you to create stunning pieces of jewelry with relative ease, making it a perfect choice for both beginners and experienced jewelry makers. This comprehensive guide takes you on a step-by-step journey through the world of PMC jewelry making, providing you with all the knowledge and skills you need to craft beautiful and unique pieces.

Inside, you'll find:

- In-depth exploration of different types of PMC, their properties, and their suitability for various projects.
- Detailed instructions on essential PMC techniques, from basic shaping and texturing to

advanced skills like metal clay inlay and mokume gane.

- A thorough guide to firing PMC, ensuring you achieve perfect results every time.
- Expert advice on choosing the right tools and materials, setting up your workspace, and troubleshooting common problems.
- Inspiring project ideas and step-by-step tutorials to help you create a variety of PMC jewelry pieces, from earrings and necklaces to rings and bracelets.

With its clear and concise instructions, helpful tips, and stunning visuals, this book will empower you to unleash your creativity and produce exquisite PMC jewelry that will impress and delight. Whether you're a seasoned jewelry maker looking to expand your skills or a beginner eager to explore the world of metalworking, this book is your ultimate guide to creating beautiful and lasting pieces of PMC jewelry.

Chapter 1: The Art of Precious Metal Clay

What is Precious Metal Clay

Precious metal clay (PMC) is a unique and versatile material that has revolutionized the world of jewelry making. It is a clay-like substance composed of tiny particles of pure silver or gold suspended in an organic binder. When heated to a high temperature, the binder burns away, leaving behind a solid piece of metal. This process, known as firing, transforms the delicate clay into a durable and beautiful piece of jewelry.

PMC is a relatively new material, having been developed in Japan in the 1990s. Since then, it has gained immense popularity among jewelry makers and artists worldwide. Its ease of use, versatility, and affordability make it an ideal material for both beginners and experienced jewelry makers.

PMC is available in a variety of forms, including syringes, sheets, and blocks. This allows jewelry makers to create a wide range of pieces, from simple beads and pendants to intricate sculptures and mixed-media pieces. PMC can also be combined with other materials, such as glass, fabric, and wood, to create unique and stunning pieces of jewelry.

The firing process is a crucial step in working with PMC. It is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully to ensure that the piece is fired properly. PMC can be fired using a variety of methods, including a kitchen oven, a kiln, or a torch. The firing process typically takes several minutes, and the piece should be allowed to cool completely before handling.

Once fired, PMC is a strong and durable material that can be further embellished with a variety of techniques, such as polishing, oxidizing, and enameling. PMC jewelry is also hypoallergenic, making it a great choice for people with sensitive skin.

Overall, precious metal clay is a versatile and exciting material that offers endless creative possibilities. Its ease of use, affordability, and durability make it an ideal choice for jewelry makers of all skill levels.

Chapter 1: The Art of Precious Metal Clay

The History of Precious Metal Clay

Precious metal clay (PMC) is a relatively new material in the world of jewelry making, but it has quickly gained popularity due to its versatility and ease of use. PMC is a clay-like substance composed of tiny particles of pure silver or gold suspended in an organic binder. When heated to a high temperature, the binder burns away, leaving behind a solid piece of metal. This process, known as firing, transforms the delicate clay into a durable and beautiful piece of jewelry.

The origins of PMC can be traced back to the early 1990s, when a Japanese ceramic artist named Mitsuru Sakaguchi was experimenting with new ways to create ceramic jewelry. Sakaguchi discovered that by mixing metal particles with clay, he could create a material

that could be easily shaped and fired to produce metal objects.

Sakaguchi's discovery quickly caught the attention of jewelers and metalworkers around the world. In the late 1990s, PMC was introduced to the United States and Europe, where it was met with great enthusiasm. PMC quickly became a popular material for jewelry making due to its ease of use, affordability, and versatility.

Today, PMC is used by jewelry makers of all skill levels to create a wide variety of jewelry, from simple pendants and earrings to intricate sculptures. PMC is also used in mixed media art, where it is combined with other materials such as glass, fabric, and wood.

The popularity of PMC has led to the development of a wide range of tools and materials specifically designed for working with this material. There are now a variety of PMC clays available, each with its own unique properties. There are also a variety of firing kilns

available, which makes it easy for jewelry makers to fire their PMC pieces at home.

The history of PMC is a relatively short one, but it is a history of innovation and creativity. PMC has opened up the world of metalworking to a whole new generation of artists and hobbyists, and it is sure to continue to be a popular material for jewelry making for many years to come.

Chapter 1: The Art of Precious Metal Clay

The Benefits of Using Precious Metal Clay

Precious metal clay (PMC) is a versatile and exciting material that offers numerous benefits to jewelry makers of all skill levels. Here are some key advantages of using PMC:

- **Ease of Use:** PMC is incredibly user-friendly, making it an ideal material for beginners and experienced jewelry makers alike. Unlike traditional metalworking techniques, which require specialized tools and extensive training, PMC can be worked with simple household items and basic jewelry-making tools. This makes it a great option for those who want to explore metalworking without investing in expensive equipment or taking classes.

- **Affordability:** Compared to traditional metals like gold and silver, PMC is a relatively affordable material. This makes it a great choice for jewelry makers who are on a budget or who want to create a large number of pieces without breaking the bank.
- **Versatility:** PMC is incredibly versatile and can be used to create a wide range of jewelry designs, from simple beads and pendants to intricate sculptures. It can be textured, stamped, carved, and combined with other materials like glass, fabric, and wood. This versatility makes PMC a great choice for jewelry makers who want to express their creativity and create unique and personalized pieces.
- **Durability:** When fired properly, PMC becomes a strong and durable metal that is resistant to tarnishing and wear. This makes it an excellent

choice for jewelry that is meant to be worn regularly.

- **Safety:** PMC is a safe material to work with, as it does not emit toxic fumes or require the use of harsh chemicals. This makes it a good option for those who are concerned about their health or the environment.

Overall, PMC is a versatile, affordable, easy-to-use, and durable material that is perfect for jewelry makers of all skill levels. Whether you are a beginner looking to explore metalworking or an experienced jeweler looking to expand your skills, PMC is a great choice.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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