



BEGINNERS PROJECT DECORATED EARRINGS OR PENDANT

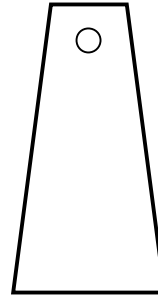
Tools:

1mm spacers
Work surface
Non-stick baking paper (ideally Teflon coated)
Rolling pin
Scalpel
Hairdryer
File or emery board
Torch
Fibreboard firing brick
Stainless steel brush
Sandpaper

Materials:

ACS 650 10gm
ACS syringe
2 jump rings per piece
2 ear hooks or screw backs (if using as earrings)
or
Chain or ribbon (if using as pendant)

Pattern:



Instructions:

1. Plan your design carefully before you start. Make sure you have your tools and workspace ready. Keep a small bowl of water next to you, together with a soft brush. Use the water to gently smooth over the surface of the clay when you work it, to keep it moist. You only need one small drop rubbed over your fingertips, not too much water.
2. Using the spacers, roll out the ACS 650 1mm thick between two sheets of baking paper. Turn the clay a few times to ensure even thickness.
3. Cut out your desired shape (or use the pattern here) in paper, lay this on top of your clay and cut the clay carefully. If you are making earrings, remember to make two shapes! If your clay looks dry, use the brush or your fingertip to smooth it with a little water.
4. Make the hole for the jump ring with a small drinking straw.
5. Roll up the unused clay and wrap up carefully in cling film and put back in its envelope. Add a little bit of wet tissue to keep the clay moist.
6. Use the syringe to draw your design on the shapes. Keep the syringe a few millimetres above your shape and let the line fall onto it. Gently touch the surface of the piece with the tip of the syringe to fix a line at the start and end. Try not to cover the whole surface, leave some open space to make a nice contrast. You can draw lines criss-cross over the surface, little doodles or maybe dots. Until you get used to the syringe, keep your design simple.
7. Use the hairdryer to gently dry the surface a little, and then flatten your design with the tip of your finger when half dry. You can dampen your finger a little if that makes it easier.
8. Let the shape dry, you can use the hairdryer to speed this up a little – don't overheat your piece though. When leather dry, gently use the file or emery board, or fine sandpaper to smooth out your edges, round of the hole and to generally tidy up your piece. Be careful, as the clay is very brittle at this stage. Use a rubber block to support you. If you prefer a softer look you can round of your corners gently.
9. When you have finished your piece make sure it dries out completely. Ideally you should leave this overnight, but you can speed it up with the hairdryer, put it on a sunny windowsill, next to your heater or just somewhere warm and dry. When you feel it is dry it is time to fire it.

silverclay



Firing

10. Place the completely dry piece on a fibreboard firing brick.
11. Be sure to read the instructions included with the torch before you begin to fire. When you purchase a torch it is empty. The fuel required is cigarette lighter butane.
12. If you dim the lights in the room it will be easier to keep an eye on the glow (see point 15).
13. Switch on the gas torch and direct the flame at a 45° angle at a distance of about 5 centimetres. This distance will vary depending on the torch you are using and the size of the piece.
14. Rotate the flame around the piece to heat it evenly. You will see a little smoke and flame as the non-toxic organic binder burns away. A white crystalline coating will appear.
15. When the piece begins to glow red-orange, begin to time the firing. Try to keep this colour for about 1.5-2.5 minutes. You will have to alter the distance you are holding the torch to maintain the glow but not overheat the piece.
16. The melting temperature of silver is 960°C (1760°F). If the piece begins to get shiny and bubble, it is about to melt. If this happens, quickly pull back the torch to adjust the heat, and continue firing until completed.
17. Leave to cool.



Finishing

18. To finish your piece, use your stainless steel brush. For a beautiful shine, follow up with wet & dry sand paper. Start with 600 and finish with 1200. For an interesting finish you can use Liver of Sulphur, this will darken, or antique the silver, you can then use a metal polish and a soft cloth to polish up all the raised lines on your piece until they are back to silver shine again.
19. Burnishing your piece with a burnisher hardens it and makes it really shiny and smooth. If you don't have a burnisher (used on the picture with a star), you can try the back of a metal spoon - just gently rub your piece with it.
20. Attach the jump rings, using two per piece (one attached to the other) allow it to hang better. Add your finding (ear hook, chain or ribbon) and wear your first piece of Art Clay jewellery with pride!



Liver of Sulphur

Antiquing with Liver of Sulphur can give you lots of new interesting design ideas. It can change the look of a design completely. Below are some samples of how LOS can be used.

