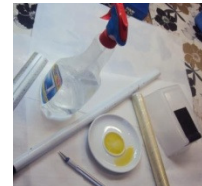
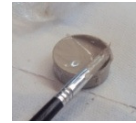


1) Prepare your work surface and have all tools at hand. You will need:

- 2x wooden strips to keep thickness of clay even when rolling out
- a rolling pin
- a little olive oil to prevent clay sticking to tools
- water spray bottle
- small plastic container with mix of clay and water to use as paste
- box the size you wish to make firing container
- cling film to prevent clay sticking to box
- paint brush
- tea towel to roll clay onto and for turning over onto other side to roll again
- cutter for cutting edges.



2) Take the required amount of clay to make the box size you wish and roll between two wooden strips. Turn it over and re-roll. When the clay is large enough and even, place it gently over the cling film covered box. Gently shape to form and size of box. With damp fingers smooth edges and cut excess clay with cutter.



3) Leave to dry but be sure to gently remove box before the clay shrinks and cracks. Then leave to dry completely. Use a dehydrator if you wish to speed up the drying time.

4) Place in kiln on the following program. There are various programs but I used the following:

Overnight warm-up holding 70° (if the container is totally dry and fairly warm move straight on to next phase)

2 hours with ramp at 100°C (increase temperature at 100°C per hour for 2 hours)

2 hours at 150°C (increase temperature at 150°C per hour for 2 hours)

Ramp at 200°C until target temperature of 900°C is reached. (increase temperature at 200°C per hour until temperature reaches 900°C)

Let the kiln cool down naturally. This is very important when using this firing container as it will crack if cooled down too fast.



Now your container is ready to use!

Place your carbon and base metals in the container as you would normally and fire to programs, always being aware of allowing the container to cool down naturally afterwards. I like to use the metal mania firing program to get consistent results each firing.



You can have loads of fun making your own personalized containers! These examples aren't the prettiest of containers but do their job very well!

I hope this is helpful!

Caroline Bray

