

Tutorial Beginner Level Earring



1 - Prepare your work surface and be sure to have all the required tools you need to hand.



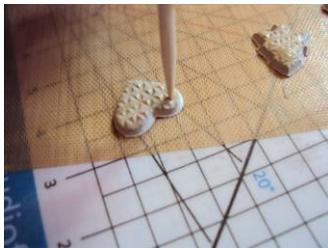
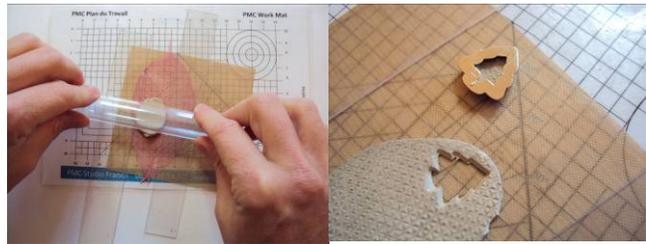
Materials

7g PMC 3 clay, work mat, balm, teflon sheet, spacers (or playing cards if you do not have spacers), roller, a texture such as a leaf, lace or texture mat, a pendant drill with a setting to make a hole large enough for the jump ring. (If you do not possess a hand pendant drill you can use a toothpick and make a hole while the clay is still wet), sanding sponge, burnisher, polishing cloths, torch blower (or kiln if you have one) jump rings, eyelets, ear wires and swaroski AB coated beads..

2 - Place your work mat, texture, spacers (1mm) or playing cards out in front of you. Take the balm and oil the roller, mat, and texture lightly (If you do not have balm a little olive oil will also work). You just need enough so that the clay does not stick to the tools or texture.

3 - Open the packet of clay and roll the clay into a ball using the pads at the base of your palms. Place the ball onto the texture on the mat and place the spacers either side of the texture. Using the roller evenly roll the clay to make a shape large enough for the cutters.

4 - Take the clay carefully off the texture and place on the teflon. Using the shaped cutters press onto the clay. Remove excess clay around the shapes and gently push out each shape using the end of the damp paintbrush being careful not to damage the texture.



5 - If you do not possess a pendant drill at this point take the toothpick (a little balm placed on it to prevent sticking) and make a hole at the top end big enough for the jump ring once the clay has reduced by approx 10%.

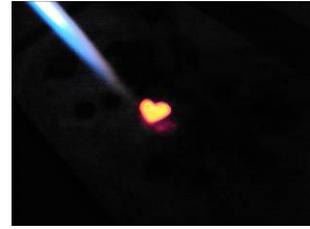
6 - Allow the clay to dry thoroughly. If placed somewhere warm the drying process will be quicker.

7 - Using a sanding sponge, smooth out the rough edges on each earring shape. Do not sand over the texture as this will remove the pattern that you want to keep.





8a - Place the dry earrings close together on a torch block. You can fire both together (as they are so small) being careful to keep an even heat across them both. This way they are more likely to shrink to the same size after firing. The block should be placed on a tile or heat proof block of some sort. Be absolutely sure that the pieces are completely dry before firing as any moisture left will cause the pieces to distort during firing. Fill the torch with gas. Light the torch and move the flame slowly across the pieces, heating them evenly. You will see a little smoke and small flame as the non-toxic binder burns away. This is quite normal. The pieces will then start to glow a soft orange colour. You need to keep firing the pieces to maintain this colour for approximately 2 minutes. Be sure to maintain the heat evenly over the pieces. When the heat is removed the pieces will be white in colour. They are now completely fired. Either allow the pieces to cool or quench them in water using tweezers.

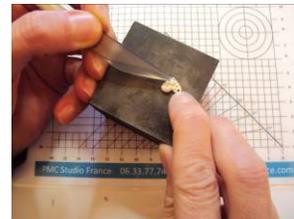


8b – Place the pieces in a kiln following firing instructions for a fast cycle.



9 - Take the brass brush and brush the white colour away leaving the beautiful silver to shine through.

10 - Take the burnisher and gently polish the pieces to bring out the shine. Do not use the point as this will scratch the piece.



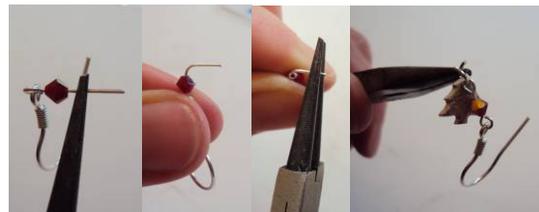
11 - For those without the use of a tumbler take the polishing cloths and work through the colours starting with the most coarse to the finest. The order is green, grey, blue, turquoise, pink and white. Spend about 10-15 mins rubbing each piece with each colour. This gives a fine shine to your pieces.



12 - Take the jump ring and using flat nosed pliers open it and place it through the hole in the earring and then taking the eyelet pass the open jump ring through the eye. Using flat nose pliers close the jump ring without distorting the ring shape and making the ends meet exactly. This keeps the strength of the ring. Then thread a swaroski bead onto the eyelet



wire and using round nosed pliers loop the end of the wire through the ear wire and close the loop at the top of the swaroski bead.(see diagram) Repeat the process for the second earring .



13 - Your piece is now finished and ready to wear or place in the gift box to give to a loved one. You have now created your very own piece of fine silver jewellery!

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We sell starter kits and kilns and remain the cheapest supplier of PMC 3 in France. For those who want to get started we have designed 5 beginner kits which guide you through creating unique pieces of fine silver jewellery.

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