

# No. 02

## { TWIGS & BRANCHES }



*Exploring construction:*

HOW TO MAKE TWIGS AND BRANCHES

*3 ways to construct twigs and branches for your metal clay designs.*

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## METAL CLAY: TECHNIQUE

### { 3 WAYS TO MAKE METAL CLAY TWIGS & BRANCHES

**ENJOY THE PROCESS OF EXPERIMENTING.** When I start a project I usually think I know how I will construct a piece when I use metal clay. However, sometimes it's not always the most efficient or unique way. I have to remind myself to explore the options. I always do this with the design of my pieces, but in construction I'm constantly having to fight the urge to dive right in and start making. Below are 3 different ways to make metal clay twigs and branches.

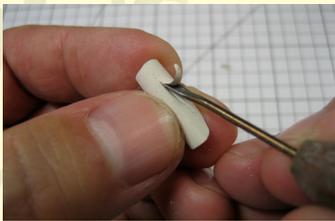
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#### METHOD 1 - CARVE



**1** Rollout a metal clay snake to the desired length and about 1/4" thick. Pinch the snake and bend at an angle. Repeat pinching and bending, changing angles each time. Set snake aside to dry.



**2** Using a 1.5mm V-Shaped gouge carve short lines in the snake. Make each line a different length and at slightly different angles. Repeat until the entire branch is carved. Smooth the cuts with a slightly damp brush in a scrubbing motion. Attach the twig to your design using a dry to dry connection.

#### METHOD 2 - WIRE BRUSH



**1** Rollout a metal clay snake to the desired length and about 1/4" thick. Pinch the snake and bend at an angle. Repeat pinching and bending, changing angles each time.

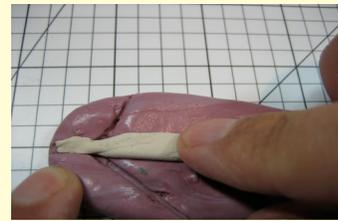


**2** Use a brass pen brush to scratch a wood grain pattern into the wet branch. Then use the tip of a mechanical pencil to create a knot hole. Set aside to dry. Attach the twig to your design using a dry to dry connection.

#### METHOD 3 - MOLDS



**1** Mix two part mold compound and insert twig into the compound. Make sure not to press too deep to avoid piercing the bottom of the compound. Let cure according to manufacturer's instructions. Remove the twig.



**2** Press metal clay into the mold. Remove any excess clay from the edge of the mold. Set aside to dry before removing the branch. Sand any excess clay that has gone over the edges. Attach the twig to your design using a dry to dry connection.

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**W**ant to learn how to make these projects? Check out *Woodland Chic* the book available on [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).

PATRIK KUSEK

## { ABOUT THE AUTHOR }

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Patrik's unique vision for his jewelry designs has won praise from jewelry collectors both nationally and internationally. His experience in the worlds of design and fashion helped shape his creative vision and brand. He is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and The Academy of Art University. He worked as a Fashion Stylist at Macy's San Francisco and was the owner and Creative Director of Wallop Design Group, a graphic design and branding company.

He currently is able to pursue his passion as a jewelry artist and instructor. He teaches metal clay workshops in the San Francisco Bay Area and internationally. He is one of IO senior instructors for Rio Grande and teaches Rio Rewards PMC certification workshops internationally. He was a featured artist on HGTV's "That's Clever." Patrik's work has been published in numerous books and publications such as 500 Pendants and Locketts by Lark Books, New Directions in Metal Clay: 25 Creative Jewelry Projects By CeCe Wire, Lapidary Journal and MJSA Journal, among others. He was recently a featured artist in Ornament Magazine. He has written articles for Art Jewelry Magazine both on-line and print, Metal Clay Artist Magazine and has authored numerous tutorials for Whole Lotta Whimsy, Aftosa, Rio Grande and Craft-Cast.com. He is also the recipient of the 2007 Saul Bell Award 1st place in PMC.

Please visit Patrik's blog for more helpful information on metal clay and art jewelry. [www.patriksstudio.com](http://www.patriksstudio.com)

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