

Aftosa's how-to series: *Metal Clay*

Skill level: *Intermediate*



*Modify a texture to suit
your creative vision.*

by Patrik Kusek

*H*ave you ever wondered how to get more uses out of your textures or rubber stamps? Try selectively using different parts of the stamps or textures to create new and interesting designs. Combine different textures in unique ways to create even more design options. For this project, we started with Deco Roll "A" and modified 2 patterns to create a butterfly necklace. With the Deco Roll series and a little creativity, you'll have tons of design options for your metal clay toolbox.

Start off by choosing a texture and shape that is suitable to add dimension to. In this case, we used Clay Planet # "Deco Roller "A". This set comes with 6 designs in a variety of shapes.



Photo 2



Photo 3



Clay Planet Item # "Deco Roller A"



Photo 4

Next (photo 2) Attach the texture sheet to the roller handle and secure with locking peg.

(photo 3) Roll out a lump of metal clay 3 cards thick.

(photo 4) Lubricate the texture wheel by using a small brush or eye make-up applicator.



Photo 5

(photo 5) Firmly roll the texture onto the metal clay. Be careful not to press too hard as the texture may cut through the metal clay.

(photo 6) Using a pin tool, roughly cut the outline of the shape. These will be the wings. Use your design skills to selectively leave out the parts you don't want in your design. We will refine these rough shapes later. Remember, if there are impressions that you don't want to include in your design but can't cut out, you can fill the impressions later.





Photo 7

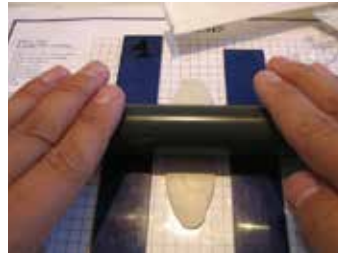


Photo 8

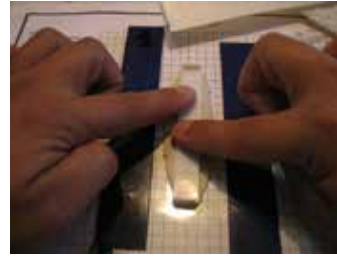


Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

(photo 7) Set aside to dry in a food dehydrator or warmer

(photo 8) Next roll out the “body” of the butterfly by rolling out an elongated shape. This should be 4 cards thick.

(photo 9) Use a different pattern to make a texture for the body. In this case, we used the Mini-deco roller.

(photo 10) Roughly cut out the shape of the body. Use your judgement to leave out the parts you don’t want in your design.

(photo 11) Take a playing card and fold in half lengthwise. Lubricate the card and place the body of the butterfly on the card to create an inverted “V” shape. Dry as usual to the bone dry stage.

(photo 12) Using a file and sanding sponges, refine the shape of the wings and body to their final shapes. If there are parts of the texture that you don’t want in your final, design you can file them off at this stage.



Diagram "a"

(Diagram a) To attach the wings to the body we need to file one edge of the wing flush to be able to attach it to the body. In this case, three parts of the wing are filed to make full contact with the body.



Photo 13

(photo 13) Attach each wing to the body by making a dry-to-dry connection. Support the wing while it dries by using a stack of cards to bring the wing up to the level where it will attach to the body. Be sure the connection is completely dry before connecting the other wing.



Photo 14

(photo 14) Once the wing connections are dry, reinforce by adding a bead of slip to the underside of the wing connecting it to the body. Since the chain will be attached directly to the wings, it is important that the wings be structurally sound. This extra bit of reinforcement will help make the butterfly stronger.



Photo 14

(photo 15) Make a hole in each of the wings by using a hand drill in the upper corners.

Do one final sanding before firing.



(photo 16) Place the butterfly on vermiculite while firing to give the piece additional support in the kiln.

Fire according to manufacturer's instructions.

Finish using a brass brush. Patina if desired.

A dry-to-dry connection is accomplished by wetting each bone-dry piece with water and then using slip to bond the two pieces together. Remember to hold together for a count of 3

** If using alumina hydrate remember to use the appropriate safety gear. I use the 3M Dust and Mist Respirator.*

Supplies

PMC +28 gram

Chain

Oval Jump Rings 5.3x3.2mm

Tools

Basic PMC Tool Kit

Playing cards

Graduated Slats

Deco Roll "A"

Mini Deco Roller

Water Brush

PMC Work Surface

Sanding Sponge Set

Pocket Needle File

Pocket Drill

Vermiculite or Alumina Hydrate

3M Dust and Mist Respirator

Kiln: Paragon SC-2 KILN or torch

Tumbler:

Food Dehydrator or Warmer/Dryer



About the Author:

Patrik's 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. Patrik is a member of the PMC Guild and is both PMC Guild Certified and Art Clay Certified. He is one of 9 senior instructors for Rio Grande and teaches 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. He is also the recipient of the 2007 Saul Bell Award 1st place in PMC. Patrik has also recently been featured in Ornament Magazine.



Copyright 2022: Patrik's Studio, All rights reserved.