

## Home Made Oil Paste

Many metal clay users prefer using home-made silver oil paste to join fired pieces of silver metal clay together or for joining silver wire, settings and various findings to fired, sintered metal clay.

It is also possible to use homemade oil paste to attach sterling silver earring posts, bezel cups and other sterling silver findings to fired silver metal clay and fire as low as 705°C for 30-35 minute. However, attachments made with silver clay oil paste and fired at a lower firing schedule (used to prevent the sterling silver from degrading during firing) will not be as strong as soldered joints. Extra-strong homemade oil paste, can be made from PMC 925 Sterling, Onefire PMC 950 Sterling or other enriched sterling silver clay types.

Home-made oil paste should be mixed up on a needs basis. Unlike regular silver clay paste, home-made oil paste should be used within a few weeks and stored in a small, airtight container. Unfortunately it cannot easily be reconstituted and restored to its prior smooth, creamy consistency if it dries out. Our small, [Opaque white Airtight Containers](#) are ideal for storing home-made oil paste.

Although the methods described here are for PMC, they may be used to create home-made oil paste from many other metal clay brands, types, and formulas, including base metal clays. Checking with the manufacturer to make sure the brand and formula you choose is compatible with essential oils, is recommended.

### Method 1 - Pastemaker Oil Paste

#### [Sherri Haab Pastemaker Solution](#)

Break off a small piece of **fresh PMC3**. Place it on a smooth work surface – preferably glass or a smooth ceramic tile.

Blend a few drops of PasteMaker into the clay with a small, thin, [stainless steel tool](#) or palette knife.

Add more PasteMaker solution one drop at a time. Thoroughly mix each drop into the clay, before adding more, until the paste becomes a smooth, creamy, uniform consistency. For the equivalent of a pea-sized amount of fresh PMC3, add approximately 6–10 drops total to get the correct, thick cream consistency. Place the mixture into a very small, airtight, shallow container.

This Oil paste can be used to repair already fired pieces of silver clay, join leather-hard, bone-dry and fired silver clay components.

### Method 2 - [Lavender Oil](#) Paste

One [15g jar PMC3 Paste](#). Alternatively you can mix up a similar amount of paste using PMC3. PMC Sterling or OneFire PMC 950 sterling lump clay.

Mix 100% pure essential lavender oil and water into the silver clay paste, a few drops at a time. Stir with a stainless steel tool or palette knife until the mixture becomes smooth and creamy. Start the process by mixing in 3–5 drops 100% pure essential lavender oil and then add 1-2 drops of water. If a creamier consistency is preferred, add a small amount of isopropyl alcohol to the water. Continue adding drops of 100% pure essential lavender oil and water, adjusting the proportions a drop or two at a time, until you have a very thick, very creamy slip that smells strongly lavender oil. There are no absolute or precise measurements for this oil paste, As a guide, using a 15-gram jar of PMC3 slip and the method above, add approximately 15–25 drops of pure essential lavender oil and approximately 5-12 drops of a isopropyl alcohol/water mix.

Cover the Lavender Oil Paste mixture tightly and allow it to sit overnight.

Stir the home-made Lavender Oil Paste well before using.

100% pure essential Lavender oil is recommended for this method. For those who cannot tolerate the smell of lavender oil, the other 100% pure essential oils peppermint, grapefruit and rosewood oil can be substituted.

**Do not use** essential oil blends that contains cooking or carrier oils. They do not react the same way with metal clays as the 100% pure essential oils mentioned.

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