

Welcome to the exciting world of Precious Metal Clay



PMC Flex General Information and Firing

Working with Precious Metal Clay Precious Metal Clay

(PMC™) combines microscopic particles of metal with water and a nontoxic binder to create a material that can be worked as easily as modelling clay. Objects can be made with simple tools, then they are dried and heated in a small kiln or with a torch. Firing burns away the binder and fuses the particles into solid metal. Tools for shaping PMC™ may include rubber stamps, cookie cutters, children's toys, and many household items like pens, playing cards, toothpicks, and combs. A piece of plastic or glass makes a convenient waterproof work surface. Avoid aluminium foil and aluminium tools. All versions of PMC™ are ready to use directly from the package. Only use as much clay as will be needed immediately and then rewrap remainder in plastic so it doesn't dry out. Apply a thin layer of olive oil or lubricant to your hands and tools before working. Avoid drafts and hot lamps that will dry out the clay as you work. At the end of a work session, add a few drops of water and rewrap the clay in plastic shrink film to rejuvenate it for the next project. Collect your scraps in an airtight container and add a little water to make slip. PMC™ can be cut, textured, layered, and shaped to create a range of forms limited only by your imagination. Use water to seal joints and to smooth surfaces, but be careful not to add too much. Most artists do their work when the PMC™ is soft and pliable, but another technique is to create a general form, then refine it after the clay is dry by filing and carving. Set pieces aside to dry or use a hair dryer, lamp, or warming tray to speed initial drying. When the moisture and binder are removed during the firing, PMC™ shrinks proportionately. PMC Flex shrinks 10–18%; all versions and styles of PMC™ are compatible—always fire for the longer/hotter PMC Clay type in the mix.

Firing PMC™

PMC can be fired in any kiln that will hold the correct temperature for the required time. A small programmable kiln is ideal. Set the work on ceramic bisque tiles, solid brick, or soldering pads. Use in well ventilated area or with exhaust fan. Objects with metal implants, glass, or gemstones might require the minimum firing schedule shown below* **whenever possible, for maximum strength fire all versions of PMC™ to the highest recommended temperature for the longest recommended time.** To avoid the potential for a burn injury it is safest to allow work to cool before removing it from the kiln.

PMC Flex, PMC3 and PMC+ can also be fired using a hand held butane torch or on a gas stove top.

PMC Flex is a pure silver clay that has been formulated to provide extended working time. Unlike the other versions of PMC™, Flex does not completely harden at room temperature. This means it is possible to make rods and sheets for later use. With Flex you can return to projects several days after getting started and continue working on them! When you are ready to sand or carve Flex, you need to dry the object completely by heating to 150 °C for about 20 minutes. Thereafter, firing and finishing is the same as for all other fine silver clays. Finishing after firing, PMC™ is the same for any solid metal that can be sawn, drilled, sanded, soldered, or enamelled using conventional jewellery tools. Typical finishing involves hand burnishing, brass brushing, or polishing papers. Soldering on PMC+, PMC3 and PMC Flex is very similar to soldering on wrought fine silver.

Safety

Allergy issues are rare but it is possible for some individuals to experience skin rash or itchiness after contact with PMC™. If you have a reaction, discontinue use and consult a doctor. Always use care to avoid burn injuries. Do not ingest. Keep out of reach of children. Wash hands after use.

Silver Firing Schedules*

PMC+ 900 C 10 min. PMC+ 850 C 20 min. PMC+ 800 C 30 min.

PMC3 700 C 10 min. PMC3 650 C 20 min. PMC3 600 C 30 min.

PMC Flex 700 C 10 min. PMC Flex 650 C 20 min. PMC Flex 600 C 30 min.

Gold Same as PMC+ or Aura 22k 700 C 90 min.

Please note: Maximum strength for all silver clays is 900C for 2 hours