

PMC Flex - Useful Additional Information

PMC Flex is a relatively new addition to the popular metal clay range produced by Mitsubishi. PMC Flex has the same firing schedule, the same density and the same strength as PMC3. However, PMC Flex boasts some extremely useful qualities which will be to the benefit of most people working with the material. Most notably, PMC Flex has a much longer working or open time than the original PMC formula making it ideal for more complex pieces but also the perfect medium for the classroom. With an extended working window, beginners will find this a much more user friendly material to handle with opportunities to perfect mistakes.

Other attributes include increased flexibility, less stickiness and increased firmness in the "wet stage" which allows for the creation of more intricate details. PMC Flex is good to carve, it is easy to join PMC Flex components together and it can be combined with all other varieties of PMC silver clay.

Use the same tools you use for other silver metal clays but always take care to clean tools thoroughly before using them on a different clay.

The only possible drawback with PMC Flex is the increased drying time and the shrinkage rate (due to its new formula) which is approximately 15%. It makes sense that if the clay has a longer working time it will require a longer hardening period.

It is important and useful to remember that PMC Flex needs to be completely dry before it can be sanded, carved and finished successfully. PMC Flex will not fully dry at room temperature due to its new formula so you will need to dry it out with a hairdryer or by heating in an oven or dedicated food dehydrator at 120C – 150C for approximately 20mins. Drying is a crucial step and you must ensure PMC Flex pieces are fully dry before firing. PLEASE NOTE: After PMC Flex has air dried and feels flexible, you won't be able to form it into a ball again and/or re-roll the clay. To do that, you'll need to fully rehydrate the clay and begin working it again.

Unused PMC Flex clay should be kept tightly sealed when not in use.

Any object that can withstand the firing temperatures and times of PMC Flex can be embedded and fired in place. Some natural gemstones, laboratory made gems and Cubic Zirconia's can be used, as well as porcelain.

After your PMC Flex piece is dried, sanded and finished, proceed as usual to either kiln firing, torch firing or stove top firing. (Full instructions for kiln and torch firing are included in the PMC Flex packet). Once cool after firing, PMC Flex pieces can be finished in the same way as PMC3 or PMC+