

# **ART CLAY SILVER – SLOW DRY TYPE - INSTRUCTION SHEET**

Art Clay Silver Slow Dry is packaged in the new silver Mylar-sealed packet. The moister formula allows for braiding and weaving, and generally gives the artist as much as 4 times more working time. It is ideal for artists working in dry climates. It is recommended the unfired clay to be no more than 3mm thick. You can make large items, but they need to be layered, such as flower petals, so the piece will dry properly. You may combine the Slow Dry elements with all other Art Clay types for firing.

## **DIRECTIONS**

### **PREPARATION**

Take out only the amount needed for your project and wrap the unused portion of clay tightly in plastic wrap. Store unused clay in an airtight plastic container. Cut a sponge to fit the bottom, moisten it and place the tightly plastic-wrapped clay on top of the sponge; replace the lid, sealing the container. If the clay is too dry to work with, leave the plastic wrap open to allow the clay to hydrate from the moist sponge, again replacing the lid to seal the container.

Note: Do not refrigerate clay.

When you use newly opened Slow Dry, or if the unused portion of Slow Dry seems stiff, warm it in the palm of your hand to soften it. Do not combine any unused portion of Slow Dry with the original clay, as they contain different types of binder.

### **MOULDING**

To join Art Clay™ Slow Dry together or to mend a jointed area, use Art Clay™ Slow Dry in paste form, which can be made as follows: Put Art Clay™ Slow Dry in a small plate. Add a few drops of water and blend it evenly with a utensil such as a spatula. Shape as you wish using your fingers, a mould, etc. If Art Clay™ Slow Dry becomes stiff to handle, place it in a zipper bag, add a few drops of water and knead it until it becomes soft.

Note: Remember that the finished piece shrinks 9 percent, so size your piece accordingly.

### **DRYING**

The clay must be dried completely, which may be done in the following ways:

- Hair dryer: At least 45 minutes with 1200w dryer. Place the dryer less than 3in from the piece.
- Food dehydrator: At least 30 minutes at 60°C
- Cooking plate: At least 20 minutes at 150-180°C
- Kiln: At least 20 minutes at 150°C

**WARNING:** If you use a cooking plate, you must not allow the temperature to exceed 480°F. At this temperature, the binder begins to burn away and the piece will change shape and may break when handled. How to tell when the piece is dry enough: Place the piece on glass or plastic and after 10-20 seconds, pick up the piece. If there is no cloud of water vapour, it is dry.

### **FIRING**

Place the piece in a cold or warm kiln (below 300°C). It is safest to start with a cold kiln. Wait at least 15 minutes to reach firing temperature. You may use any of the three firing temperatures and hold times listed below. If you are combining with other materials (e.g. laboratory stone, glass), please check the appropriate firing temperature and hold time.

*Note: If you are firing more than two pieces, make sure the pieces are not touching each other.*

Schedule	1	2	3
Temperature	870°C	850°C	800°C
Holding time	10 min.	20 min.	30 min.

### **GAS TORCH AND GAS STOVE FIRING**

Gas torch/stove top – slow dry can be fired using these methods – please follow the gas torch/stove top firing directions.

### **FINISHING**

The surface of the fired piece has a fine white powder covering which is the remains of the binder. Lustre can be obtained by polishing (e.g. with stainless brush, burnisher, buff polishing, file, sandpaper).

### **COMPLETING**

The completed piece is 99.9% Silver and can be hallmarked as SV999

### **PRECAUTIONS**

Keep the clay indoors, out of direct sunlight. Use the clay soon after unsealing. When drying and baking, take care not to get burned or start a fire. Ventilate your workroom well during firing. Keep this product out of the reach of children.