

## Project of the Week: Copper Leaf Pendant

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011

### What you need:

Brass brush  
Container (small)  
Creative Copper Clay 20g  
Leaf  
Olive oil and dispenser  
Paintbrush and cup of water  
Rubber block  
Sandpaper  
Snake roller  
Straw  
Teflon  
Torch and torch block or Kiln  
Tumbler polisher



All items above are available from The PMC Studio, [www.thepmcstudio.com](http://www.thepmcstudio.com), tel. 01494 774428. The PMC Studio also offers a fast and efficient kiln firing service. Please visit the website for details.

### Step 1

Open your pack of Creative Copper Clay and place 12-15g in to a small container. Create Copper paste like so: Carefully add a few drops of water using your paintbrush and cup of water. Mix thoroughly. You need to obtain a 'thick Greek yogurt' texture to the clay. Add more water if required. Your paste needs to be thicker than paste made using PMC.

### Step 2

Using your Copper paste apply the paste to one side of the leaf. Apply a full thin covering to the surface of the leaf. Allow the leaf time to dry between layers. Repeat this step at least 7 times. You should finish with a minimum of 8 layers of thin paste. Allow to dry thoroughly.

### Step 3

Create a bail using the remaining Copper clay. Use your snake roller to roll out a long thin sausage shape. You can taper this at the ends if you wish. Wrap the long roll of copper around a straw to create your bail shape. Attach to the leaf by placing the copper bail in place on the leaf and apply paste to attach them together. Allow to dry thoroughly.

### Step 4

Refine the edges of your piece using sandpaper until you are happy the piece is complete.

### Step 5

We recommend kiln firing your piece. Place the piece between two kiln pillows. This is to limit the oxidation during firing and the resultant fire-scale. Fire your piece at 920 Celsius for 30 minutes. You can torch fire the piece: Fire for at least 5 minutes after the binder has burnt off. Once fired, quench immediately to minimise fire-scale.

### Step 6

Place the fired Copper into some mixed Picklean solution. Picklean solution is created by mixing 1 tablespoon of Picklean granules with 200ml of hot/warm water. Leave the copper piece in the solution for 10 minutes immediately after firing. After 10 minutes remove the piece from the solution and brush using a brass brush to remove the fire-scale.

### Step 7

To remove as much of the fire-scale as possible we recommend you tumble your pieces in a tumbler polisher with mixed stainless steel shot and 1/3 teaspoon of tumbler soap.

Recommendation: When choosing a leaf, choose a leaf that has plenty of texture. Don't choose a leaf that has a waxy surface.