

Project of the Week: Copper Fossil 10th November 2011

What you need:

Creative Copper 20g
Moulding Compound 100g
Ammonite Fossil
Olive oil and olive oil dispenser
Teflon
Clay shaper
Paintbrush and cup of water
Sandpaper
Gas torch and firing block or kiln
Brass brush
Tumbler



All items above are available from The PMC Studio, www.thepmcstudio.com, tel. 01494 774428

Step 1

Take an equal amount of the two different coloured mould compounds. Rapidly knead the two colours together until they become a uniform colour. Roll into a ball. Flatten slightly.

Step 2

Place the compound onto a piece of Teflon and push the fossil as far in as necessary. Push the compound up around the edges of the fossil. (Do not cover it completely as you won't be able to get it out.) Allow this to set for 10-20 minutes. A finished mould will not dent when you push it with your fingernail. To test if the mould is ready, simply try to gently peel the compound off the object. If ready the mould compound will come away easily without leaving a residue. When set remove your original and the mould will be ready to use.

Step 3

Put some olive oil on your hands. Push enough Copper clay into the fossil mould to fill it. Remove it immediately by pushing on the external surface of the mould. Check the imprint and repeat pressing harder if required.

Step 4

Use a clay shaper to remove excess clay and smooth the edges. Using a wet paint brush can also assist in smoothing the edges. Leave to dry for approximately 24hours. Once dry use sandpaper to further refine the edges and back of the piece.

Step 5

For best results always kiln fire - Kiln fire at 920C for 30 minutes

Fire using a butane gas torch: Wait for the binder to burn off and time for a minimum of 5 minutes from when the piece starts to glow orange.

Step 6

Once your pieces are fired remove them from the kiln immediately and quench. Place your items in some pre-mixed Picklean solution and leave for at least 10 minutes. **We recommend tumbling your pieces for an hour using stainless steel shot and Picklean solution in warm water.** This method works best for removing all fire-scale. After tumbling you can give them a final brush with a brass brush to bring up the Copper shine.