

A Quickly Put-Together Tutorial

Mokumé-Gané with CopprClay, BronzClay, and Paper Clay

by Cindy Silas

After MCWC '09 and my presentation was over, I eagerly dove into playing with the new copper clay and could hardly wait to attempt a mokumé-gané look by combining the BronzClay and CopprClay. The grouping on the left has been fired and the right has not. I added paper clay as a third layer and was very pleased with the resulting ruffled look. Eventually, these pieces will be finished as a pendant and earrings.



Since the notes I took while doing it are scant, and a picture's worth so much more, I just repeated the exercise with polymer. Hopefully, this'll work for now and eventually, I'll improve the tutorial and post it on my website at www.cindysilas.com.

Note:

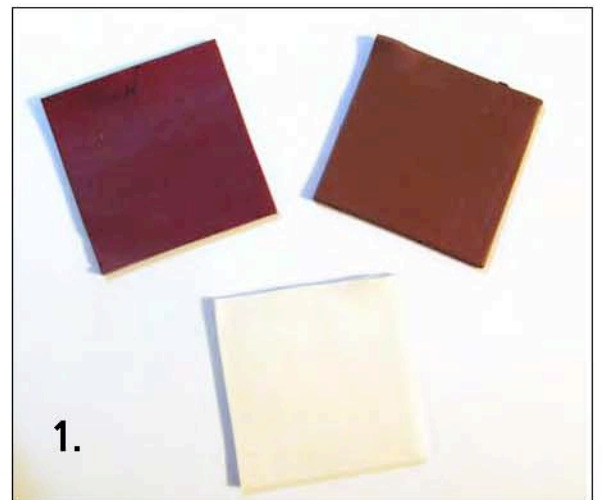
This tutorial follows a very basic polymer technique for mokumé gané. And although the pics are using polymer, the directions are written for metal clay.

Materials:

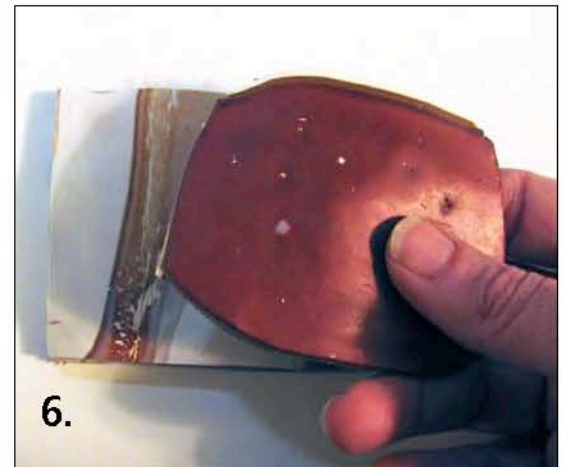
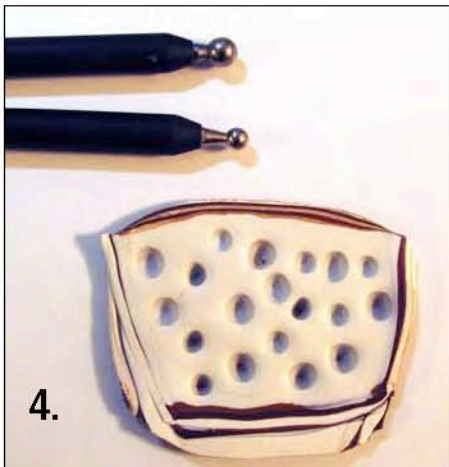
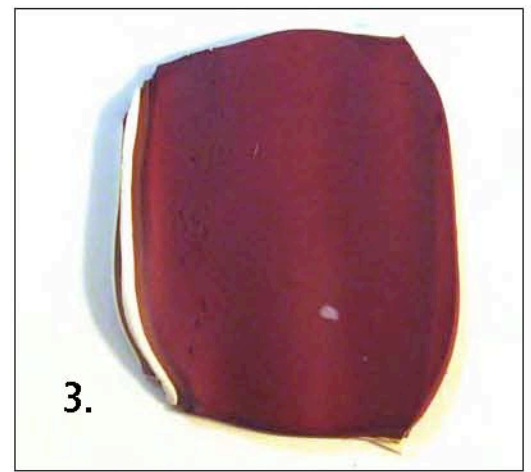
- Delight paper clay, www.paperclay.com
- BronzClay and CopprClay, www.bronzclay.com
- plastic wrap, roller, tissue blade, plus other metal clay tools

Directions:

- Roll and cut one 8-card thick and 2" x 2" square each of BronzClay, CopprClay, and Delight paper clay. Keep them from drying out by covering with plastic wrap whenever possible (*photo 1*).
- Spritz the paper clay with water, then lay the BronzClay directly on top of it. Now spritz the BronzClay with water and lay the CopprClay on top of that. You should have a 2" x 2" stack of three layers.
- Cut it in half and stack one on top of the other. You should now have a 1" x 2" stack of six layers (*photo 2*).



- Roll that block down to a more manageable height (*photo 3*), then cut in half and stack again.
- Roll down once more if needed. You should now have 12 layers with paper clay on the bottom and CopprClay on top.
- Turn the clay over so that the paper clay side is on top. Push the clay down with various tools such as an end of a paintbrush or ball or sculpting tools (*photo 4*). Push deep, but not all the way through the layers.
- Now press paper clay balls into each of the divets (*photo 5*).
- Next, roll out a thick block of scrap or paper clay. Pick up and turn over the layered clay, putting it down on top of the scrap clay (*photo 6*).



- Press the block down with your fingers. You should feel where the balls of clay were applied to the other side.
- Cover with plastic wrap and roll a 4-card thick sheet of CopprClay. This will be the base for the mokumé gané. You can add a texture for what will be the underside.
- With a tissue blade, take off a thin slice (*photos 7 and 8*) and lay it on the thin sheet of CopprClay. Be sure to spritz the metal clays with water, so that they adhere. Continue to slice thin pieces off the layered clay and apply them to the thin CopprClay sheet until it's decorated to your liking.
- As for firing, I tried several different published schedules, and finally concocted my own based on those. I don't use the open shelf method. Put the dry clay in the carbon, ramp 250°F to 1600°F and hold for 3-1/2 hours. Don't rush the cooling.
- I'm looking forward to seeing your creations!! I'd love it if you send pics to cindy@cindysilas.com.

