

How to Use This Book

This second edition of *The Handbook of Metal Clay: Textures and Forms* was revised and expanded with the intention of applying to users of both silver and base metal clays. The rationale was that although silver clay was historically introduced first, more and more people are being introduced today to the metal clay medium through base metal clays. Most projects in this book can be done with any clay, and special instructions are provided for “translating” projects from silver to base metal clay.

The book introduces tools and techniques through projects, as in my “hands-on” classes and workshops. A descriptive and theoretical discussion on metal clay, including firing instructions, updates, and troubleshooting, can be found on my blog: (www.hadarjacobson.com/blog), which can be regarded as an ongoing tutorial on metal clay and a companion to all my books. It exists online only, and is updated on a regular basis, since new information in this fast-growing field is constantly streaming in.

The first two projects, “Collage of Textures” and “Finishing, or Post-Firing Treatment,” form the basis for the rest of the projects. Further projects rely on previous projects, so the book can be regarded as one continuous course.

The book is divided into three main sections, corresponding to the types of techniques introduced: texturing, forming, and textile techniques with flexible clay. I have focused on techniques that have worked best in my years of teaching and experimentation and tried to avoid those covered by other books.

The techniques that are introduced throughout the book include basic metal fabrication techniques that are required either to construct a piece or to assemble it. Explanations of these techniques are aimed toward people with no experience in metal fabrication. For readers who don’t own a required piece of equipment, the book suggests alternative methods for completing the project without it.

Note regarding my other books: My books *Silver and Bronze Jewelry: Movement and Mechanisms* and *Mixed Metal Jewelry from Metal Clay* occasionally refer the reader to specific pages in the **original edition** of this book. To find the relevant sections here, please refer to the gray boxes next to the page numbers in this new edition (see example at the bottom of this page).