



Hadar Jacobson

Art in Metal Clay

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Handling the Clay

Storage The powder clay does not require special storage. Mixed clay should be refrigerated, wrapped with plastic food wrap inside a closed plastic box.

Toxicity None. It is not healthy to inhale any powder of any kind. Use a protective mask and goggles when handling the powder.

Mixing With distilled water only.

Re-hydrating and lubricating **To re-hydrate and making joints use only distilled water. To lubricate use olive oil only!**

Drying on a heating pan at 220-250°F. **The clay does not dry well in the air!** Lay flat pieces on a piece of sheet metal or on a small unglazed tile.

Consistency Can be prepared to the desired consistency by adding more or less water. Soft, pliable, does not crack when bent, and sticks well to itself. Discoloration (marbling) in copper clay is normal.

Flexibility before firing When dry, flexible like high-shrinkage silver clay and not as brittle as low-shrinkage silver clay.

Reconstituting With distilled water. **Do not reconstitute leftovers from sanding dry clay.**

Shrinkage Shrinkage of flat pieces is obvious while drying. Two-dimensional pieces shrink like low-shrinkage silver clay. 3D bronze pieces shrink less than silver, and 3D copper pieces shrink less than bronze.

Warping flat pieces warp considerably while drying. When the warping begins, flatten them with your finger and/or turn them over once in a while. When the texture (outer surface) is dry you can tape the piece to a block or a square of copper sheet and continue drying.

Combining clays

Copper and silver clay can be fired in the same box when not in contact, or even linked. To fire them in the same piece fire the copper part first.

When **bronze and silver** clay are fired together sintering may not be complete. (See more information in the book: *Silver and Bronze Clay: Movement and Mechanisms*.)

Copper and bronze clay in powder form are compatible and can be fired successfully in a single piece.