

How to Read This Book

This book is divided into three main sections. The first includes projects for combining copper and bronze clay in a single piece. Copper and bronze fuse together. They can be used in the same piece while in clay state, and then fired together.

The second section of the book introduces projects for combining copper and silver clay in the same piece. In most cases, firing copper and silver in clay state results in poor sintering or alloying. Therefore, one of them has to be fired first. In most cases it is preferable to fire copper first, but it is not impossible to fire silver first, as demonstrated in one of the projects. Since copper and silver do not bond together, the two metals have to be connected mechanically, meaning that the second metal fired has to be attached to itself - either around the first metal or through a hole in it.

The third section presents projects that combine all three metals, with each metal fired separately. This section is not based on the first two, and there is no reason not to start with these projects. Most of them are based on making copper, bronze, and silver components separately and then assembling them into a single piece of jewelry. Only three projects involve firing two of the metals together.

Although the order of the sections is not important, it is recommended to start with the first project in each section and progress from there. A new technique is introduced with each subsequent project. This book assumes that the reader is familiar with my first two books and refers to them for certain techniques. The same toolkit applies, with some new tools introduced in the relevant projects.

The subject of combining silver and bronze clay and the problems it entails has already been covered in my second book: *Silver and Bronze Clay: Movement and Mechanisms*. Only one project in the current book involves combining these two metals, with the purpose of highlighting the difference between using silver with bronze and using silver with copper.

As in my first book, *The Handbook of Metal Clay: Textures and Forms*, all projects in this book are brand-free and can be made with any type or brand of copper and bronze clay. Whenever relevant, it is mentioned when high-shrinkage or low-shrinkage silver clay is recommended. Most projects in the last section can be made with just one metal.

This book is hands-on, with no descriptive or theoretical part. A broad selection of descriptive and theoretical material can be found on my blog - www.artinsilver.com/blog - which may be regarded as a companion to this book.