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Updated 7/13/10

## **Pearl-Grey Steel Clay Guide**

### **Instructions for Hadar's Clay™, Quick-fire Pearl-Grey Steel**



This guide is written under the assumption that you are familiar with the Instruction Manual for Hadar's Clay™, Quick-fire Copper and Bronze.

### **Preparation**

Same as Hadar's Clay™, Quick-fire Copper and Bronze (see Instructional Video at [www.youtube.com/artinsilver](http://www.youtube.com/artinsilver) – select the video entitled “Hadar's Clay™ (Improved Formula) – Mixing”).

### **Storing the Clay**

The powder clay should be stored in an airtight box in a dry area. Mixed clay should be stored in the refrigerator, wrapped in plastic food wrap in a sealed box. The mixed clay lasts a long time in the refrigerator and maintains its smooth consistency.

Dried smooth areas (non-textured) may develop reddish spots that will not sand away. These spots will disappear with post firing treatment, like buffing and sanding. On textured areas they will not show at all.



## Working with the Clay

The clay is gray in color and has a nice, smooth, and creamy consistency.

While drying, flat pieces tend to warp. Flip them over until they stop warping. Cooling in the refrigerator will make warped pieces more flexible and you may be able to re-flatten them.



**Shrinkage** About 20% .

## Tools

There is no need for separate tools. Just clean the tools when switching from one clay to another.

## Storing Dry Pieces

If pieces are not fired right away, it is recommended to coat them with olive oil and wrap them in plastic food wrap.

## Compatibility

Pearl-grey Steel clay can be fired with every other metal clay, provided that the steel part is fired first.

Pearl-grey Steel clay can be combined with copper clay in the same piece and fired at the same time. Sometimes, on non-textured areas, a bronze-colored halo shows on the border between the copper and the steel.



## Firing

The firing process is the same as for Hadar's Clay™, Quick-fire Copper and Bronze. It is recommended to fire it in a fiber blanket box as described in the Instruction Manual for Quick-fire Copper and Bronze.

### Firing Schedule

Ramp at full speed to:

1000°F/538°C (top loader kiln)

Hold for 30 minutes to 1:00 hour, depending on the size of the pieces

Ramp at 750°F/415°C speed to

1750°F/955°C (top loader kiln)

1830°F/1000°C (front loader kiln)

Hold for 1:30 hours

**When fired with copper clay in the same piece raise the temperature to 1800°F/ 982°C (top loader) 1880°F/1026°C (front loader).**

## Finishing

The fired clay has a pearl-gray color. It is easy to sand and bring to a smooth, matte finish.



## Patina

Birchwood Casey Super Blue patina will give the metal a dark blue color.

## Rusting

Pearl Grey Steel does not rust as readily as regular steel. However, it is recommended to seal it with oil and wax as described in the manual for Quick-fire Steel.

