

FIRING ART CLAY SILVER WITH A BUTANE TORCH



To ensure proper and safe firing, read this instruction sheet **THOROUGHLY** before firing!

1. Dry Completely

The piece must be completely dry before firing. Art Clay will dry naturally if it is left out for over 24 hours. Pieces can also be dried with a hot-air-dryer.



*When using a hot-air-dryer, place it close to the piece to ensure complete drying. Be careful not to touch the piece or get close enough to blow the piece away.

If the piece has been dried with heat you can place the piece on a dark or reflective piece of stainless steel, glass or plastic. After 10 to 20 seconds lift up the piece. If there is no water vapor, the piece should be dry.



If the piece is not completely dry it may break or pop during firing. It is very dangerous to fire non-dried pieces. Make sure the piece is completely dry!

2. Draw an outline of the unfired piece



Size Limitations

Clay Volume: Up to 25g

Dimensions:

no larger than a U.S. Silver Dollar (30.61mm diameter x 2.15mm thickness)

Carefully place your pre-fired piece on a piece of paper and trace around it with a pen or pencil. You will compare the post-fired piece with this outline to ensure proper firing has occurred.

3. Place piece on fiber brick

Place a fiber brick (sold at Art Clay World, USA) inside a metal pan or other heat resistant material (i.e. ceramic tile, borosilicate dish, etc.) to prevent any possible damage from excess heat. Place your piece on the center of the fiber brick.



4. Read instructions to fuel torch

Be sure to read all the instructions included with the torch before fueling. Torches are sold empty and require butane fuel. The fuel is available most places that sell tobacco products such as grocery stores, drug stores, and chain stores. Always fill the torch upside down.



5. Make sure your piece can be fired

Items that cannot be fired:

projects made over cork clay, paper clay, or large quantities of organic material, as well as projects that include glass, porcelain, ceramic, natural gemstones, or other heat sensitive materials. Never fire plastic as it creates toxic fumes. Stand-alone pieces of Art Clay Paper Type cannot be fired with the torch.

Items that can be fired:

pure silver findings, laboratory created CZ's, and small appliqué pieces of Paper Type that have been adhered to a larger work. Leaves with paste that do not exceed the maximum size can be fired.

6. Firing process

Ignite and lock the butane torch. Place the flame of the torch at a 45° angle about 2 inches away from the piece. Move the flame around the object in a slow circular pattern. The initial heat will cause the binder to burn away creating a small flame for a few seconds.



7. Firing time

Begin timing once the piece begins glowing a pink or peach color from the inside. Fire the piece for the appropriate time once it has reached the peach color.

Clay Volume / Firing Time

Up to 5g	1 - 1.5min.
6g - 15g	1.5 - 2.5min.
16g - 25g	2.5 - 5min.

8. Cool piece in water



After the piece has cooled for at least 20 minutes, pick it up with a pair of metal tweezers and completely submerge it in a basin of water. ***Only pieces composed entirely of Art Clay should be quenched. Do not quench pieces with other materials imbedded into the clay.**

9. Check the size of the fired piece

After the piece is cooled and dry, place it on the piece of paper with the outline of the pre-fired piece. If you do not visually see around 10% shrinkage, the piece may not be successfully fired. Follow steps 5 through 8 to ensure the piece is completely fired.



Additional Tips for Success:

- Do not use supporting material, such as fiber blanket, during firing. Using such material will block the heat, resulting in incomplete firing.
- You cannot fire hollow objects containing combustible material such as cork clay or paper clay with a butane torch. Do not fire heat sensitive materials with a torch.
- You cannot fire Art Clay Gold with a butane torch because it will not reach the applicable temperature.
- When firing Art Clay Silver Slow Dry or thick pieces, make sure they are completely dry.
- Dimming the lights may help you see the color of the piece during firing.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q:** Is there a difference in shrinkage when firing with a butane torch, compared to firing with a gas stovetop or an electric kiln?
A: There should be no difference if the piece has been properly fired. The amount of shrinkage may vary slightly, depending on the volume of Art Clay Silver.
- Q:** Is it possible to fire Art Clay Silver too long?
A: As long as the piece does not turn red or begin to melt, you cannot fire Art Clay too long.
- Q:** Should you place your piece face up or face down on the fiber brick?
A: Always place the piece face down if possible. This will prevent the detailed designs on the front from sustaining damage if the piece is momentarily overheated.
- Q:** Once my piece is fired can I add more clay and re-fire the piece?
A: A fired, finished piece can be added to and fired over and over again. Remember, the fired clay will not shrink, but the added clay will.

Art Clay World USA

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