

Glass & Textured Silver Pendant

This beautiful pendant showcases the ability of metal clay to take on detailed textures and to be fired with glass.

MATERIALS

20 gm 650 Low Fire metal clay
Glass cabochon

ADDITIONAL TOOLS & SUPPLIES REQUIRED

- ✚ Acrylic roller, 1 mm thick strips, paint brush, texture plates, rubber stamps, craft knife or clay cutter, assorted small files, straw segment, non-stick surface, agate burnisher, olive oil, head pins, assorted silver and/or colored beads, wire cutters, chain nose pliers, silver beads, Liver of Sulfur, stainless steel brush, 2 glass cups, metal polish, polishing cloth
- ✚ Cord or chain for finished necklace.



Drying Methods – may include hairdryer, oven, or toaster oven set below 250°F, food dehydrator, or warming tray. Piece also may be left to dry naturally overnight.

Firing Methods –Programmable Electric Kiln (This piece CANNOT be fired on a stovetop or with a handheld torch!)

PROCESS

- ✚ Place non-stick surface on table with 1 plastic strip on each side to ensure a uniform thickness.
- ✚ Rub a very small amount of olive oil on your hands, roller, stamps and texture plates to avoid sticking. Do not use too much or your clay will separate like flaky pie dough.
- ✚ Remove clay from package and remove about 20%. Place the smaller amount into plastic wrap or small plastic bag. Knead a bit and roll into a slightly flattened ball.
- ✚ Using 2 texture plates, place clay between and gently roll back and forth to add texture to both the front and back of the clay.
- ✚ Cut to desired shape with craft knife. This will form the back area of the piece.
- ✚ Place the glass cabochon in center of piece. Lift glass and cut a small window that will be behind the glass cabochon. Add the removed clay to the plastic bag. Place the cabochon back onto the clay.
- ✚ Take small amount of the extra clay out of the bag, roll into a log shape. Roll between a different texture plate for design enhancement. Cut 3 pieces to desired shape – add to the existing pendant, surrounding 3 sides of the pendant. Use a small piece of the cut-off clay and add a bit of water to form a thick paste. Use this paste to join the pieces. Save remaining paste for further steps that require paste.
- ✚ Take a larger amount of clay to create the rollover bail. Roll out clay to approximately as wide as pendant and long enough to create a roll over the straw segment that will connect back to the pendant. Texture both sides. Cut piece to the same width as the pendant.

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- ✚ Use paste to connect the bail to the piece by lifting the pendant, placing some paste onto the area that will join to the pendant. Lay straw segment across bail area. Roll clay forward, over the straw and use paste to connect to pendant top. Leave straw in place to dry piece. Remove plastic straw before firing as it will create toxic fumes.
- ✚ Use skewer or straw to make 3 small holes at base to hang charms. These holes can also be drilled after firing.
- ✚ Roll one more log of clay and add texture to one side only. Cut to a very thin strip that will be placed around the glass cabochon as a bezel. Use paste to join the clay bezel to the base of the piece around the cabochon. Also use paste to neatly join seam so texture is not disturbed. If texture needs repairing, do so with a small skewer or tool appropriate to your chosen texture.
- ✚ Roll out 3 small balls of clay and stamp each one to create the charms that will hang from your pendant.
- ✚ Add hole to top of each charm with skewer.
- ✚ Dry completely.
- ✚ Use files to refine piece on front and back. This is your final chance before firing to refine your piece to perfection. If any areas need to be filled in with paste, do so with fine paint brush. Re-dry the piece. Brush all areas with a soft brush to remove any dust from filing. Be sure to clean the front of the glass cabochon so that superfluous clay will not adhere to the glass during firing.
- ✚ You must kiln fire your glass pendant due to the heating and cooling requirements of glass. Fire for 30 minutes at 1200°F. Do not open the kiln until it has completely cooled. Cooling glass too quickly may result in cracking or even explosive shattering!
- ✚ After piece has cooled, brush with stainless steel brush in all areas. At this point, you will have a matte finish. Firmly burnish with agate burnisher on all raised areas to bring up a brilliant shine.

At this point, you can either leave the pendant shiny or add patina with Liver of Sulfur.

Liver of Sulfur Technique

Clean your pieces thoroughly with baking soda and water. Rinse and dry. Remove 1 piece of Liver of Sulphur – a patina agent -- about the size of your thumbnail and place into a clean glass cup with one cup of steaming, not boiling water. Stir well with either a bamboo stick or skewer. **VENTILATE YOUR AREA WELL** – Liver of Sulphur has an unpleasant odor.

Dip pendant into the solution until piece is almost black. Dip into clear water and dry. Use stainless steel brush to remove most of patina from raised areas. Follow by rubbing a good silver polish over the entire piece and buff high areas to shine.

Join charms to main pendant with head pins decorated with assorted beads.