

# Holiday Tree

Can be worn as a pendant, or hung on a holiday tree!  
Finished size: 2" high by 1 3/4" wide

## MATERIALS:

Metal Clay 650/1200 Low Fire Type 10gm

Metal Clay 650/1200 Syringe Type - Blue Nozzle

Straw segment with small round open end

(1) 4 mm white faceted stone

(4) Swarovski Crystal Beads 4 mm diamond shape - Siam Red

(4) Swarovski Crystal Beads 4 mm diamond shape - Emerald Green

(8) Sterling Silver headpins

(1) Pure silver bail back



## ADDITIONAL TOOLS & SUPPLIES REQUIRED:

- Non-stick surface, roller, small paintbrush, round nose and chain nose pliers, wire cutters, stainless steel brush (short bristle), small files, 1200 grit sandpaper, burnisher, pin vise with small bit to fit the head pin.
- Plastic wrap, metal bowl, water.
- Firing equipment

**Drying methods** may include hairdryer, oven or toaster oven set below 250°, food dehydrator, warming tray.

**Firing methods** include either by electric kiln, hand-held butane torch, or gas stovetop.

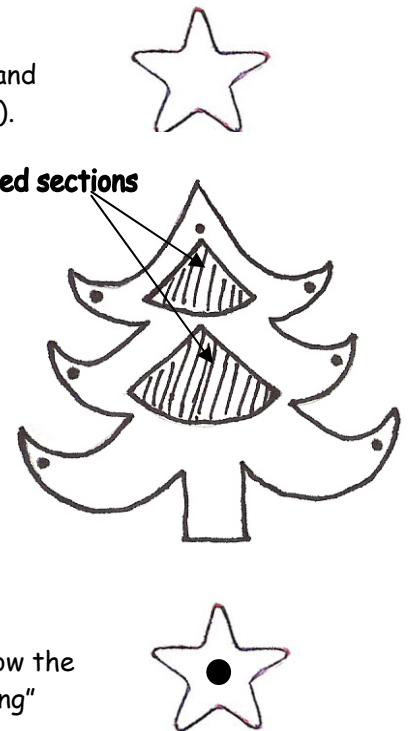
## PROCESS:

### 1. Tree:

- Place clay onto non-stick surface; roll out 1 mm thick clay sheet and cut out the Christmas Tree and Star shapes using pattern (right).
- Cut out center sections of the tree.
  - While you may drill the tiny holes for the headpins now, it is recommended that you wait and drill into the fired piece. Drilling into the pre-fired piece may make the tips subject to breakage during filing and sanding.
- Let tree dry flat.
- Wrap any unused clay securely in plastic wrap to avoid drying out.

### 2. Star:

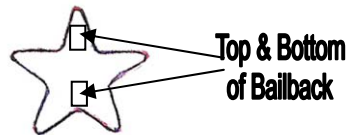
- Using the straw segment like a cookie cutter, cut a small hole in center of star for placement of the white stone.
- Outline the hole with syringe.
- Press white stone into hole, making sure the top edge is just below the level of the clay surface. Smooth the edge of the "syringe setting" with paintbrush.
- Let star dry flat.



3. After drying the tree and star, smooth all edges and surfaces with files and sandpaper, until tree and star are fully finished with no blemishes. Use paste to fill in any imperfections and let dry. You may use a damp cosmetic sponge or baby wipe to wipe the tree a final time. This pre-finishing in the dry "greenware" state will give you beautiful fired results.
4. Using some of the syringe material, add water to make a thick paste. Use this paste to secure star to top of tree, being careful not to set the star too low on the tree as to block the hole behind the stone. Dry.
5. Use paste to affix bailback onto star. Be careful not to block hole where back of white stone will show through. Dry tree face down so bailback will not shift during drying.



Bailback



6. Use syringe to decorate the tree, giving a nice detail to simulate branches and needles.
7. Use syringe to decorate star. Dry.
8. Make sure piece is completely dry before firing. If moisture remains in the clay it will expand during firing causing bursting or breakage of your piece. (See Drying Techniques)
9. Fire the ornament using one of the following methods:
  - a. Gas Stovetop
  - b. Butane Torch
  - c. Electric Kiln (See Firing Methods)
10. Brush entire ornament with stainless steel brush to remove white crystalline coating from surface to reveal the beautiful silver finish.
11. Burnish the syringe detail to a mirror shine with a burnisher, or even a metal crochet hook!
12. Hanging the Bead Ornaments:
  - a. Using the pin vise and a small bit, carefully drill holes near the end of each branch and above center spaces. (See placement on pattern)
  - b. Thread each bead on a headpin. Insert headpin through the hole in the branch. Bend wire down and back to the front and around the wire above the bead twice to form a bead cap. Snip wire to proper length; use chain nose pliers to tuck in end. Continue for all beads.
13. Either attach a chain to wear your tree, or add it as an ornament to your holiday decorations.
14. Enjoy!