

Rolled Leaf Pendant

This simple procedure for capturing the texture of a leaf or other organic item can be used to decorate rings, earrings, brooches, sculptural items, etc. Finished size depends on the shape you choose to create.

MATERIALS

Silver clay 650/1200 Low Fire Type 10 gm

Straw segment with small round open end

Oval jump ring

Leaf with nice shape or veining on back – This will be the design of your pendant.



ADDITIONAL TOOLS & SUPPLIES REQUIRED

- Non-stick surface, roller, plastic strips (1 mm) small paintbrush, stainless steel brush (short bristle), small files, 600, 1200 and 2000 grit wet/dry sandpaper, burnisher.
- Firing equipment.
- Cord or chain for finished necklace.

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

Firing Methods – include either by electric kiln, hand-held butane torch, or gas stovetop burner.

PROCESS

- ✚ Roll out clay type to a round or oval shape on non-stick surface, using plastic strips to maintain even thickness of 1-2 mm. If desired thickness is thicker, use thicker strips. Do not make pendant thinner than 1 mm or it will be subject to breakage; slightly thicker pendants will be less likely to warp their shape.
- ✚ Place leaf face up on the clay surface. Using the roller and firm, even pressure, roll the leaf into the clay. Do not yet remove the leaf.
- ✚ Using a small straw, make a hole for your jump ring. (If you choose to do this after firing, use a small drill bit with a pin vise.)
- ✚ Dry the piece completely with a hot air dryer, dehydrator, toaster oven (no higher than 250°F!) or at room temperature for more than 24 hours.
- ✚ Sand the area around the leaf with 600 and then 1200 grit sandpaper. At the dried stage, you may (although not necessary) be able to remove the leaf.
- ✚ Fire by stovetop, torch, or kiln method.
- ✚ After firing, brush piece well with a stainless steel brush to remove white crystalline coating.
- ✚ Sand with 600, 1200, and then 2000 grit wet/dry sandpaper, frequently dipped in water, to bring area around leaf to a mirror finish. Change water between grits to keep particles from scratching surface.
Optional Step: Oxidize with Liver of Sulfur to bring out detail.
- ✚ After oxidizing (if chosen to do so), rub surface around leaf with metal polish and polishing cloth to enhance mirror shine.
- ✚ Wash excess polish from piece with baking soda and water. Dry with soft cloth.