

Prometheus Copper



by Carrie Story

Easy Stone Setting in Prometheus Copper

by Carrie Story

Materials
30 grams Prometheus Copper
Non-stick rolling pin
Playing cards or depth measuring slats
Release agent such as olive oil
Shape cutter
Small coffee straw
Essential oil of choice
8mm copper bezel
Water spray bottle
Brass brush
Torch
Nail files, metal files or baby wipes
Burnisher
Textures
Non-stick surface
Small paint brush
8mm cabochon
Tongs or long tweezers



Instructions for basic pendant

1. Set up your workspace. Anything that comes in contact with the clay should be covered with a light coating of olive oil or other release agent. This includes your hands and non-stick surface.
2. Remove a ping pong size ball of clay from the pack and reseal. Condition the clay by spraying the water once to twice, then knead the water into the clay until the clay is smooth.



3. Working quickly, roll out the clay using playing cards or measuring slats to regulate thickness. Keep any unused clay tightly wrapped in a piece of plastic wrap. The finished thickness (post stamping) should be 4 cards thick. Judge the depth of your stamp, roll your clay 4 cards thicker than your stamp, typically 5-6 cards thick. Impress texture into clay with rubber stamps or texture sheets. Trim outer shape. Punch holes to hang using the coffee straw.



4. Set the wet piece aside to dry. Be certain piece is completely dry before handling it. Check by using a piece of glass or mirror. The clay is the most fragile in this state. Be careful when handling.





5. Make some oil paste by taking a pea size ball of clay and adding essential oil until you have a paste slightly thinner than peanut butter.



6. Use a file to scratch the back side of the bezel cup. This will create crevices for the oil paste to grab. Paint a thin layer of oil paste on the back of the bezel and let dry completely.

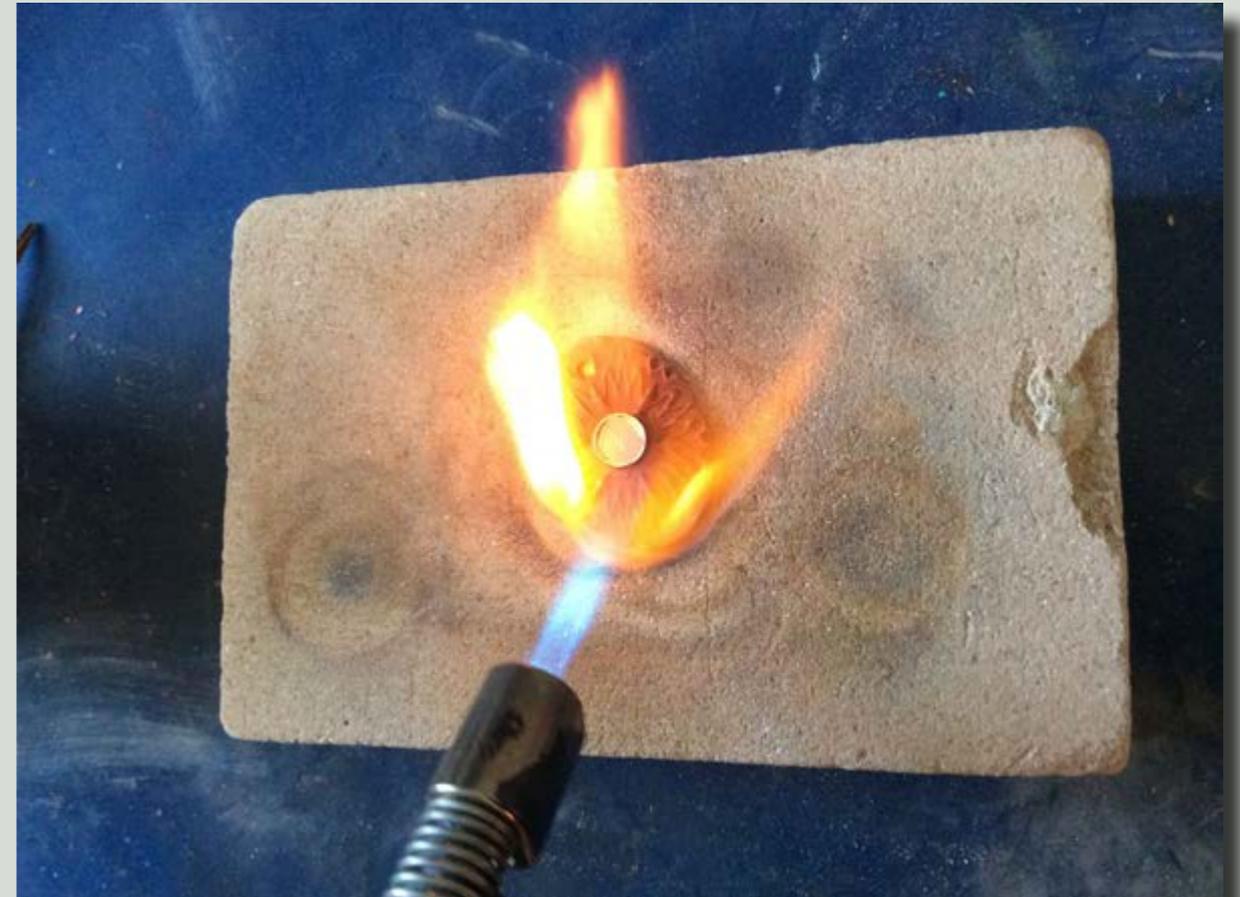


7. Paint another layer of oil paste on the bezel and on the surface of the pendant where you will place the bezel. Place the bezel on the pendant firmly. Let dry completely.



8. If there are any cracks in your piece, this is the time to fill them with a bit of paste on a paint brush. Dry again. Repeat until the crack is fixed. Support piece on a rubber block as you work. Use sandpaper, nail file or baby wipes to refine edges. If baby wipes are used, let piece dry again.

9. Place the completely dried pendant on a fire brick. Fire the piece with a butane torch keeping it as hot as possible. When you start to fire, the pendant will catch on fire. Continue to keep the flame on the pendant during the burning. After the flame goes out, the piece will begin to get red. Keep the piece cherry red for seven minutes. The key to achieve a proper sintering of this metal is to get it as hot as you can as quick as you can. Refer to the clay instructions for further firing options.
10. When the seven minutes are over, use the tongs to pick it up before it cools and quench it in water. If you quench it when it is still cherry red, most of the oxidation will come off in the water.
11. Check the piece to make sure that you have fired it completely. Tap it with another piece of metal. If it "tinks" it is finished. If it "thunks" it needs to be refired.





12. After firing it may still have some black oxide on the surface. You can brush this off or choose to use a pickle solution. You can brush with a brass brush for a satin finish. For a shiny finish, use polishing papers or rotary tool. You can also use the burnishing tool to shine smaller areas. The more time and effort you spend the better. For polishing papers, start with the coarsest grit, then slowly work your way down to the fine grit.
13. After refining, you can use the torch to heat it slightly to create fun patina colors.
14. Set the stone in the bezel and push the metal against the stone with the burnisher. Use the burnisher around the edges of the bezel to create a high shine.

Further information for Prometheus clay products is available at www.clayrevolution.com.



Carrie Story, metal clay artist and renowned instructor, recently started Clay Revolution as a means to promote metal clays to the mass public. Clay Revolution is the exclusive distributor of Prometheus Clays in the USA. Clay Revolution supports instructors by offering discounts, education and start-up kits at no cost. For more information please visit www.clayrevolution.com.