

How to...

Add an antique patina to your Precious Metal Clay.

Fact sheet page 1

5

March 2007



Antiquing adds interest and colour to silver. It enhances texture and surface and gives each piece a unique aged look. Depending on water softness and temperature, colours ranging from yellow to black can be achieved. There are 2 methods of antiquing Precious Metal Clay. Liver of Sulphur adds patina and Platinol is an oxidiser. The Chemicals used in both release a pungent odour, a little like rotten eggs, so do work in a well ventilated area!

Liver of Sulphur

Liver of Sulphur comes in small chunks. Dissolve a pea sized piece of the Liver of Sulphur into a cup of hot (almost boiling) water. The temperature and strength of the solution, along with the dip time will affect the look of the piece, the weaker the solution the more control over the finish. The patina process produces colour in a progression from yellow-gold, rosy-amber, red-mauve, bluish-purple, purple-black and finally black. It does take practice and patience to achieve this full width of colours. The softness or hardness of your water can also affect the range of colours and their achievability.

Ensure the item is clean and free from fingerprint smudges. Grasp it with stainless steel tweezers and dip and rinse under clean water until the colour or effect you want is achieved. Once achieved run it under clean water to stop the patina process.

Platinol

Platinol is a cold chemical that oxidises the silver. It gives a good solid black to Precious Metal Clay. Under some conditions some colour changes can be seen, but it is not as versatile in obtaining colour as the Liver of Sulphur.

The Platinol solution can be diluted or used full strength.

Hints and tips

A variety of effects can be achieved by changing the burnishing process prior to dipping. Try some areas brushed, some left unpolished and some burnished. Try dipping the piece at different angles or applying the solutions to specific areas with a cotton bud.

After the patina has been applied your piece can be further enhanced, with fine grade sandpaper re-expose the silver on raised areas and leave the patina in the recess areas.

Long tumbling on a platinised piece results in a lovely gunmetal grey finish.

It is important to keep your patina products in an airtight and light proof container. Only take out what you need and reseal the rest immediately, this way it should keep for a few months.

Remember Fine Silver is very porous and will take up solutions very quickly- repeat dipping and rinsing will give better control over results!



Firing

A PMC kiln is the quickest way of firing multiple items. It is also the most secure when firing PMC with glass, cork clay or organic materials. The Kiln can also be used for glass fusing and enamelling.

Product type	Temp	Firing time	Approx. Shrinkage
PMC3	700 C	10 minutes	10 %
PMC+/ Gold	900 C	10 minutes	15 %
PMC Standard	900 C	2 hours	30 %

Torch firing is suitable for smaller items as you need to keep the entire item heated. Once the binder has burnt off (pic right) the PMC piece will start to glow orange. This is when you start timing the sintering process.



Use your watch or clock to time two minutes. Keep the torch moving and do not get the piece too hot or it will start to melt and bubble.

Finishing

Matt Finish

Use a stainless steel brush to smooth the surface and achieve a matt finish. Use a bail brush to get inside your bails and small areas, and a ring brush for rings.

High Shine finish

Continue to smooth the surface by burnishing with an agate burnisher.

Add strength & Shine

Tumbling will strengthen your PMC and polish it at the same time. The longer you tumble the shinier it gets!

Look online for Tools and accessories to embellish and finish your pieces.

Platinol and Liver of sulphur help define texture and pattern.

See our Fact sheets number 5 on antiquing solutions.



For further information and fact sheets contact The PMC Studio:

Tel: 0870 850 0151

E-mail: info@thepmcstudio.com

Web: www.thepmcstudio.com