

# How to...

use bisque beads to make silver plated beads.

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# 12

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## You will need:

- Bisque bead
- Pipe Cleaner
- Polystyrene block
- Fine Sandpaper
- PMC3 Paste
- PMC syringe and/or sheet for embellishing.
- Paint brush
- Cup of water
- Paper punch or craft scissors for PMC sheet
- Kiln
- Kiln bead tree
- Stainless steel brush and burnishing tool

1. Using the sandpaper, sand off any imperfections from the ceramic bead surface. Wipe down with a damp cloth to remove any dust.

2. Begin by painting PMC paste into the ends of the Bisque bead. Make sure you paint down as far as possible into the hole as this may still be seen when strung.

Allow to dry and repeat the process 4-5 times.

3. Fold the top of a pipe cleaner over and place the bead on. This will ensure the bead won't slip whilst you paint.

4. Apply a coat of paste to the bead. Stick the pipe cleaner into a piece of polystyrene to hold the bead whilst drying.

5. Repeat 4-5 times ensuring each layer is fully dry before applying the next.

6. You can now embellish your bead using Syringe work or PMC sheet. Punch out shapes from the sheet and attach to the painted bead surface using PMC paste.

7. Once your beads are completely dry, remove the pipe cleaner and use a bead firing tree to suspend your pendants and beads for firing.

8. Fire on the PMC 3 slow programme or PMC+ if you have used PMC+ clay.

Let the pieces cool in the kiln to avoid cracking.

9. If tumbling your beads place the pipe cleaner back in through the bead and curl each end to prevent any shot getting stuck in the bead.

## Hints and Tips

If you apply too few coats of PMC paste you may experience the silver peeling away from the bead. This can be repaired by adding more clay and re-firing. Ensure each coat is dry before coating with another.



## 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:**

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