

# How to...

## Use the Photopolymer plate kit

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Select your text, design, drawing or very high contrast black and white photo.

Enlarge or reduce in size with a photocopier or computer scanner. Print on to clear acetate sheet (transparency film) using a **toner type** printer. The reason for this is that other types of inks will not dry and will blur on the acetate. It is possible to draw your design onto the film with a permanent marker but the lines do need to be good solid blacks.

Trim your design to size.

### Design tips

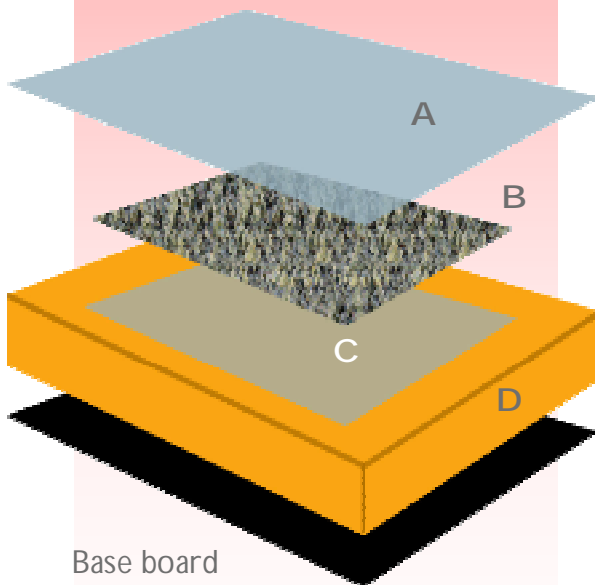
When using the plate avoid very fine lines as these will not read very well- remember that the black areas are left soft so they are scrubbed away, leaving an inverted image and the same goes for text, but if you were to expose it with the black and white reversed, the opposite would happen i.e, text and image are risen and therefore can be impressed into the clay.

In a darkened area, cut the photopolymer plate material to the size of your design.

Place the exposing unit on a flat surface and remove the glass. Place the photopolymer plate material (c) on the foam (d) and remove the thin clear plastic layer from the photopolymer plate. Place the Acetate with image (b) onto the photopolymer plate. Place the glass (a) on top.

Compress the exposing unit by hand and place the glass against your body. This will prevent any light from getting to the photopolymer material. Walk outside and turn the glass side to the sun.

Expose the plate material for 30 seconds - 2 minutes, depending on the brightness of the sun. The longer you expose the plate the less detail you will achieve so expose for the least amount of time possible.



Base board

Indoors, remove the photopolymer plate material and using the scrub provided scrub the surface in a bowl of water.

Scrub until the plate is as deep as desired. Pat dry.

Return outside and expose the photopolymer plate to sunshine for 5 minutes.

Your plate is now ready to use!



## 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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