

The PMC Studio

What is Precious Metal Clay?

Precious Metal Clay (PMC) is one of the most exciting and versatile forms of 21st century silver craftsmanship. A complementary medium to Sterling Silver, it is a fascinating new way to create patterns and textures – not just because it can be easily sculpted but because it can be re-fired many times which provides the chance to remodel or embellish an existing piece at any time.

PMC is made by Mitsubishi Materials Corporation in Japan using ground silver particles, a non-toxic organic binder and water. During firing (using a butane torch or kiln) the binder burns off and the water evaporates, leaving a piece that is 99% pure silver. As such, it can be hallmarked as fine silver.

Suitable for use by both amateur and professional silversmiths, it is also available in 22K gold.



Products

There are four types of PMC clay, each with its own unique qualities.

Low-Fire PMC Gold

A new 22K quick, low-fire gold which is made of superfine particles with the same unique qualities as the PMC+ silver (see below). It can be used on its own or watered down into slip to paint onto the silver. It works particularly well when three coats are painted onto the silver. Once torch-fired, it creates a beautiful rich gold.

PMC Standard (also known as PMC Original)

The original PMC, this has the largest silver particles and shrinks up to 30 per cent. This makes it highly suitable for producing high-detail jewellery. As it needs to be fired for two hours, it is unsuitable for torch-firing. This clay is available in lump form only.

PMC+

This is the second generation of PMC and has medium-sized particles. It can be combined with synthetic stones and ceramics. It is suitable for both torch and kiln firing. This clay is available in lump form and sheet*.

PMC3

This is the latest form of PMC. It has the finest particles and therefore is the strongest and most durable of the PMC range. It can be combined with dichroic glass, synthetic stones, some natural stones and ceramics. It also benefits from a fast and low firing time. This clay is available in lump form, paste and preloaded syringe.

* Sheet = Here the clay has been pressed into a thin sheet. The binder contains no water therefore the PMC Sheet can be cut with scissors or with a paper punch.

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