

making Jewellery

42 PROJECTS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

It's Christmas

Create the perfect party piece

Make a statement with gorgeous copper wirework and glittering pavé beads

Use polymer clay to make a cute gingerbread man holding a candy cane

Have festive fun with a stunning Christmas cracker silver clay pendant

Master a technique to make unique coiled beads with colourful wire

Go glamorous with a cool grey crystal and bead pendant

LAMPWORK
6 STEPS



WIREWORK
6 STEPS



POLYMER
6 STEPS



CRYSTAL
6 STEPS



INTERMEDIATE PROJECT

Christmas cracker

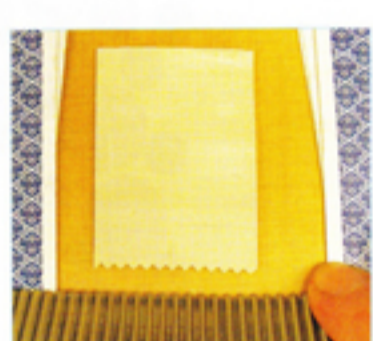
Enjoy a cracking Christmas by wearing this colourful pendant to your festive celebrations.

By Julia Rai

Julia runs the Metal Clay Academy and teaches a variety of metal clay classes around the UK. She holds the prestigious Metal Clay Masters Registry credential at level four. This fun pendant is essentially a hollow tube bead with cone ends. The elements are made separately and then constructed when they are dry. Using a wavy blade cutter gives it a festive edge. You can have lots of fun embellishing the basic pendant with stones, cut-out shapes or textures. Add colour using alcohol inks to complement your party wear.

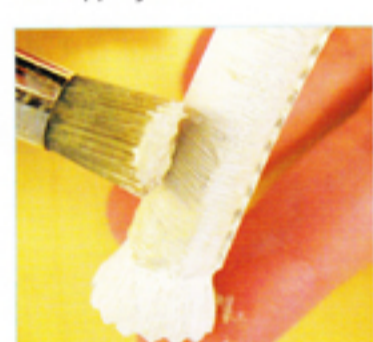
MATERIALS

- 20g of silver metal clay
- Silver clay paste
- 3mm Cubic Zirconia stone
- Chain and jumpings
- Soft polymer clay - Sculpey III™
- Wavy blade - Studio by Sculpey Polymer Clay Super Slicer
- Holly leaf cake decorating cutters
- Sharp craft knife
- Small needle files
- Paintbrush
- Stiff stencil brush
- Sanding pads/sticks/papers
- 3mm drill and/or stone setting burr
- 1mm drill
- Tweezers
- Small ceramic tile
- Tumble polisher and brass/steel brush
- Alcohol ink - green
- StazOn gold metallic ink
- Alcohol ink blending solution



STEP 1

Decide how big you want to make your central tube, before finding a suitable item to construct the tube around. It will need to be heat dried, so the handle of a burnisher would be fine. Roll out the clay to three cards thick. Check how long you need the clay to be to wrap around your form. Just overlap it and then cut it to size on three sides. Cut a wavy line on the overlapping end.



STEP 6

Secure the cones in the ends of the tube using paste. Allow to thoroughly dry. Use thick paste and a stiff stencil brush to texture the inside and outside of the cones and the main body of the tube. Work in sections, allowing each section to dry before moving on. Dry completely, refine the cone ends with a file and drill 1mm holes for the jumpings to hang the pendant.

RESOURCES

Silver metal clay:
www.bluebelldesignstudio.co.uk
StazOn gold metallic alcohol ink, green alcohol ink, blending solution:
www.thecraftbarn.co.uk
Sculpey III polymer clay, wavy blade (Studio by Sculpey Polymer Clay Super Slicer):



STEP 2

Oil your form (or fix Teflon sheet round it). Carefully wrap the clay around it, making sure the clay is snug. Put a little water along the underside of the wavy edge and gently press this down onto the overlap to form a good bond. If you have already textured the clay, be careful not to spoil it at this stage.



STEP 3

Allow the tube to dry on the form in a warm place. Prepare some cone-shaped forms to make the cracker ends. Use Sculpey III or some other soft polymer clay, condition it well and then form smooth, pointed cone shapes in a variety of sizes. These are very useful for all kinds of metal clay projects so it's worth making a few. Bake the cones following the manufacturer's instructions.



STEP 4

Once the cones are cool, oil one ready to use. Take a small blob of metal clay and form it around the cone. This can take some practice to get right as you don't want to make it too thin or thick - it should be around three or four cards thick. Use the wavy blade to cut the wide ends against the cone. Leave to dry.



STEP 5

When the tube and the cone are dry on the outside, carefully remove them from the form and allow the insides to dry. Make another cone end using the same form as in Step 4. When everything is dry, refine the edges and ends, and test how the cones fit to the tube. The cones need to sit just inside the ends of the tube and make contact all round.



STEP 7

Roll out clay to one or two cards thick and cut holly leaves for embellishment. If you're using a veined cutter, cut the leaf shape first, then press the plunger down to impress the veins before ejecting the leaf. Stick these in place on the tube using thick paste. You can use other shapes to embellish the tube or leave the rest with just the paste texture. Leave to dry.



STEP 8

Drill a hole about the same size as the stone using a drill or stone setting burr. Make sure the widest part of the stone is set right down in the hole. The flat top of the stone should be in line with the top of the hole so when you look across it, you can't see the stone. Fill the hole with thick paste and press the stone into it.



STEP 9

Sand any rough edges, smooth around the leaves with a cocktail stick and clean the stone thoroughly. Fire at 800°C for 1 hour. When it's cool, steel brush and tumble polish to a high shine. Apply green ink with a small paintbrush on the leaves and gold metallic alcohol ink on the rest of the tube. Allow the ink to dry, add jumpings and hang the pendant on a chain.

Extra projects Make earrings and charms

EARRINGS

Make a pair of matching crackers and thread onto a headpin with beads to make more embellished earrings.

CHARMS

Create a set of wineglass charms for your Christmas dinner guests using different coloured stones with matching beads.



www.craftmill.co.uk
Cubic Zirconia: www.pajed.co.uk
Veined holly shape cake decorating cutters: www.cakesandcrafts.co.uk

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Designer tips

- Alcohol inks dry fast so dispense a small amount onto a ceramic tile to use and replenish as it dries.
- Clean surfaces, paintbrushes and any mistakes using the alcohol ink blending solution.
- If you don't like the effect, reheat the piece to burn away the alcohol ink, repolish and start again.