



DAISY CHAIN BRACELET

Relive your childhood days and make this delicate daisy chain bracelet using PMC Sterling. *By Julia Rai*

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PMC Sterling is the strongest of the PMC brand metal clays. This allows you to make thinner, lighter pieces without compromising on the strength and integrity of your jewellery. It's slightly trickier to fire and you need a kiln but once you've worked with it, you'll see the benefits of using this variety of metal clay for some projects.

MATERIALS

- 15g PMC Sterling silver metal clay
- Chain and a clasp
- Jumpings
- Daisy plunger cutters in two sizes
- 5ml or 10ml measuring spoons
- Round brass tube in several sizes
- Tweezers
- Pin tool or craft knife
- Acrylic snake roller or an old CD case
- Teflon sheet
- 600 grit wet and dry sandpaper
- Stainless steel container – a bean can will do
- Coconut carbon
- Paintbrushes
- Soft, clean brass brush
- Polishing pads, papers etc
- Alcohol ink

RESOURCES

- PMC Sterling silver clay:**
www.bluebelldesignstudio.co.uk
- Alcohol ink:**
www.thestampattic.co.uk
- Stainless steel container, coconut carbon:**
www.metalclay.co.uk

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STEP 1

Roll out the PMC Sterling two cards thick onto an oiled shallow texture giving the back of each daisy a subtle pattern. Oil the large and small daisy plunger cutters and cut out one large daisy and two small daisies. Oil the inside of 5ml or 10ml measuring spoons and gently put each daisy into its own spoon. This gives each daisy a slightly concave form. Allow to dry naturally.



STEP 2

Choose a round brass tube about the same size as the space in the centre of each daisy. This will require two different tubes, one each for the large and small daisies. Roll out PMC Sterling two or three cards thick and cut out the circles. Texture each circle using something pointed so you have a rough surface. While the circle is wet, attach it to the daisy with paste.



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Project Advanced



STEP 3

Once the daisies are dry, carefully remove them from the spoons. They are very fragile so handle them gently. Check the centre circles are attached securely all round and add extra paste if necessary, then dry. Use a small piece of wet and dry sandpaper to refine the edges, going all the way down the sides of each petal. The sandpaper allows you to get right into the gaps easily.



STEP 4

Using an acrylic snake roller or an old CD case, roll out a very thin snake of PMC Sterling; this one is around 3mm thick and 6cm–7cm long. Working quickly on a piece of Teflon, use a damp paintbrush to curl the ends around, forming loops that attach to the snake. Use water to join the ends to the snake. This will form the main element of the daisy chain. Dry.



STEP 5

Carefully refine the surface of the dry snake using sandpaper. Make some thick paste in a small pot using PMC Sterling. On a sheet of Teflon, turn the largest daisy over so the back is exposed. Using a wet paintbrush, slightly dampen the surface across the middle of the daisy back. Use the paste to securely stick the snake element to the back of the daisy, then dry.



STEP 6

Make a snake of PMC Sterling that is slightly thinner than the main snake element. While the snake is still moist and pliable, use a damp paintbrush to form a loop at one end and then drape the tail over a brass tube so that it has a 'hump' in it. Make the other snake in the same way and allow them both to dry over the brass tube.



STEP 7

Refine the small snakes with sandpaper. Turn over the large daisy element with the snake attached so the back is facing up. Put the two small daisies under the loops at the end of the big snake elements. Dampen the area directly under the loop on the back of the small daisies and attach the small snakes using paste. Make sure they don't touch the larger loops, then dry.



STEP 8

PMC Sterling requires two firing phases. Phase one needs air to burn the binder away. Put 10mm coconut carbon in a stainless steel container, place the piece on top and kiln fire, following the product guidelines (use full ramp to 538°C, hold 40 minutes). Cool slowly with the kiln door closed. Cover with 10mm of carbon, put a lid on and fire again (full ramp to 815°C, hold 45 minutes).



STEP 9

Polish using a tumble polisher, which is much easier for this delicate design. Dispense a small amount of alcohol ink in the colour of your choice onto a ceramic tile and with a fine paintbrush, paint the centre of the daisies. Alcohol ink dries quickly so only dispense a small amount at a time. Allow it to dry completely. Attach chain to the loops using jumpings and add a clasp.

Extra Projects Make earrings and a hairgrip



EARRINGS

Make matching earrings using the daisy design and embedding fine silver eyelets. After firing, add earwires. You could also solder posts on the back for studs.

HAIRGRIP

Make a hairgrip using a small daisy with a snake loop on the back. After firing, attach a hairgrip through the loop.

Designer tips

- When working with PMC Sterling, make sure you thoroughly clean all the tools that you use with fine silver clay. Anything that can't be easily cleaned (like files and sandpaper) should only be used for one type of clay.
- You can't buy ready-made PMC Sterling paste so make up your own using a pea-sized lump of clay and water and store in an airtight pot.
- PMC Sterling requires a two phase firing: phase one burns off the binder and phase two sinters the metal. Phase one should be open to the air but phase two must be done with the pieces buried in coconut carbon to exclude air from the sintering process.

