

# Egyptian-inspired bracelet

Relive the excitement of the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb in the 1920s with this Egyptian-inspired bracelet. **By Julia Rai**



Julia is co-director of the Cornwall School of Art, Craft and Jewellery where she teaches metal clay classes. She holds the prestigious Metal Clay Masters Registry credential at level four. The discovery of the almost intact tomb of the boy pharaoh in 1922 sparked a worldwide interest in Ancient Egypt. This led to a boom in Egyptian themed jewellery. The metal clay focal panel in this bracelet features the Egyptian symbol for protection and health, the Eye of Ra. It's complemented by semiprecious beads in colours popular at the time.

## Designer tips

- Push moulds can be used for copper or bronze clay just as well as silver but make sure you wash them well before using them with different types of metal clay.
- Lapis lazuli was a very popular semiprecious stone used by the Egyptians. Use lapis with a polished bronze clay moulded panel for an opulent look.
- The bracelet design could be extended to make a fabulous choker by adding more beaded sections.

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## EASY PROJECT

## MATERIALS

- 10g of silver metal clay
- Thick silver clay paste
- 3mm kiln-safe Cubic Zirconia (CZ)
- 38mm silver eye pins
- Jumprings
- 4mm jade beads
- 6mm jasper beads
- Carnelian nuggets
- Silver-plated box clasp
- Roller
- Playing cards
- Teflon sheet
- Egyptian themed push mould
- Tissue blade or sharp craft knife
- Small round nesting cutters
- 3-3.5mm drill bit
- Small paintbrush
- Sanding pads/sticks/papers
- Steel brush
- Pliers and cutters
- Bead board
- Liver of Sulphur (optional)
- Tumble polisher or brass/steel brush

## RESOURCES

**Silver metal clay:**  
www.bluebelldesignstudio.co.uk

**Egyptian themed push moulds:**  
www.bestflexiblemolds.com

**Cubic Zirconia:**  
www.pajed.co.uk

**Findings:**  
www.the-beadshop.co.uk

**Beads:** www.beadsdirect.co.uk

**Carnelian nuggets:**  
www.semipreciousbeads.co.uk

## CONTACT

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### STEP 1

Oil the mould well using a paintbrush to get into all areas of the design. Pinch off a little of the clay and wrap up for later. Roll the remaining clay into a smooth ball and push this well down into the mould. Smooth the surface with a damp finger and then carefully pop it out of the mould onto Teflon and trim the edges with a tissue blade.



### STEP 2

Take the remaining clay and roll it out three cards thick. Using nesting round cutters cut donuts and then cut them in half using a tissue blade. Allow these to dry. Allow the moulded panel to dry completely then use a sanding stick to refine the back and edges if necessary. Use thick paste to attach the dried half-donuts to the sides of the moulded panel to form loops.



### STEP 3

Drill a dip in the moulded panel where you want to put the Cubic Zirconia (CZ), supporting the panel from behind. Keep checking your CZ in the dip to make sure it fits. The CZ should sit well down in the dip, so when you look across the surface of the panel, you shouldn't see any of the stone above the surface. Dampen the hole lightly, add paste and push the CZ in.



### STEP 4

When the panel is completely dry, check that the CZ is firmly embedded, remove any trace of paste from the surface of the stone and fire. If you're using a kiln, fire at 800°C for two hours. Air cool, brush the piece and/or tumble polish. An option is to oxidize the panel using Liver of Sulphur and use polishing papers to shine up the high spots of the design.



### STEP 5

Take some time to plan out your bead design using a bead board or mat. Group two or three beads per eye pin and make sure you leave enough of the eye pin protruding to form a loop. Attach two eye pins to each side of the panel using jumprings. Thread on the beads and using round nose pliers, form a loop on the end of each eye pin.



### STEP 6

Create more eye pin bead segments with a loop at each end until you have enough for the size you need. Use three segments with three beads on each. Attach these segments to each other using jumprings and then attach the silver-plated box clasp parts to each end, ensuring they're the right way up. Try the bracelet on to make sure it fits and adjust if necessary.

## Extra projects Make earrings and a pendant

### EARRINGS

Mould two small Egyptian lotus motifs in silver clay, embedding fine silver eyelets. Attach these to turquoise donuts with a jasper bead using silver eye pins for a matching pair of earrings.

### PENDANT

Small Egyptian motifs can be moulded with embeddable eyelets to make charms or pendants.

