

# LUCKY FOUR LEAF CLOVER EARRINGS

Watch your fortunes soar with these lucky four leaf clover earrings – just right for a holiday in Las Vegas! *By Julia Rai*

Julia is co-director of the Cornwall School of Art, Craft and Jewellery where she teaches a variety of classes. She holds the prestigious Metal Clay Masters Registry credential at level four.

Las Vegas – the grown up theme park where everything is big, bold and completely over the top! On a stroll down the famous 'Strip', you can experience Ancient Egypt, Medieval England, the Roman Empire, New York, Paris, Venice, pirates, erupting volcanos, circus, burlesque and dancing fountains amid the world-famous casinos; so always take your lucky earrings with you!

## MATERIALS

- 7g silver metal clay
- Silver metal clay paste
- Small heart shaped cutter
- Sterling silver earring findings
- Teflon sheet
- Good quality paintbrush
- Sanding pads
- Wet and dry sandpaper
- Tiny diamond files
- 1mm drill bit
- Soft, clean brass brush
- Steel burnisher
- Pliers and tweezers

## RESOURCES

Silver clay: [www.chunungatree.com](http://www.chunungatree.com)  
Earring findings: [www.cooksongold.com](http://www.cooksongold.com)

## CONTACT

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## Designer tips

- The four leaf clover shape would make a lovely pair of stud earrings if you know how to solder a post onto them.
- You could also combine three or more clover leaves to make a necklace or bracelet.
- Invest in some tiny diamond files for working with this type of shape. You'll be able to get into very small spaces and really refine your work.

[www.craftsinstitute.com](http://www.craftsinstitute.com)

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## Project Easy



### STEP 1

Four leaf clover leaves are heart shaped so find a small, heart-shaped cutter. Remember you're going to have four hearts for each earring so keep it small. Roll out silver clay four cards thick on a piece of Teflon. Cut out eight hearts and carefully transfer them to a hot plate to dry. We'll add a texture later but you could texture them at this stage if you prefer.



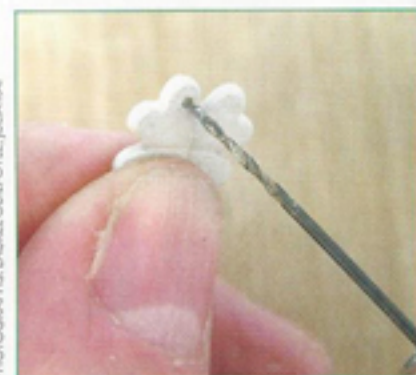
### STEP 2

Once the hearts are completely dry, refine the edges using sanding pads. Use thick paste to stick two hearts together at the pointed end. Stick the remaining hearts together in twos. Allow these to dry completely before sticking each set of two to another set of two forming your four leaf clover. Be sure to use plenty of paste between the hearts, you will be refining and texturing this later.



### STEP 3

When the clover leaves are completely dry, add texture to the front. Use thick paste to texture the leaf using a dabbing motion so you get a stippled effect. Cover as much of the leaf front as you can and allow it to dry. Once it's dry, texture the rest of the front and dry. Turn it over and use the same technique to texture the back. Let them dry.



### STEP 4

Refine all the edges to remove excess paste. Wet and dry sandpaper or tiny diamond files are ideal for this. Take time to really smooth all the edges, as this will give you a much better end result. Use a 1mm drill bit to drill a hole for the earwire. Support the leaf from behind and drill slowly by hand with no pressure; letting the drill do the work.



### STEP 5

Often when you use paste as a texture, you lose some definition in the design. It's important for this project that the leaf shapes are well defined so gently score through the texture to show the edges of the heart leaves. Use a small file or a piece of wet and dry sandpaper for this. Fire the leaves in a kiln for two hours at 900°C or torch fire.



### STEP 6

Using tweezers, drop the fired leaves into cold water to cool them quickly. Polish them using a brass brush in soapy water or tumble polish for an hour or so. Burnish the edges using a steel burnisher or hand polish with very fine sandpaper. Use pliers to attach each leaf to a Sterling silver earring wire. Always wear your four leaf clover earrings when you need some extra luck!

## Extra Projects Make lucky pendants

### NO. 7

Use a number cutter and a lovely texture to make a charm in the shape of a seven; a number many cultures think of as lucky. Hang from a chain with a jumpring.

### WISHBONE

Use a snake roller or a CD case to roll a thin sausage and hand form this into a wishbone, another lucky symbol, to make a great pendant!

## DON'T MISS!

Next month *Tracey Spurgin's* Maltese cross pendant

