

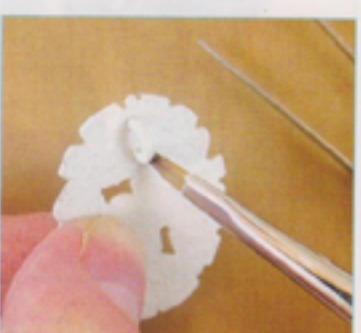


*Capture plants clinging to a dry stone wall with this metal clay pendant.*  
By Julia Rai



#### STEP 1

Choose an extruder die with very fine holes. Oil the extruder barrel and the die. Roll a sausage of PMC Flex and put it into the extruder barrel. Extrude multiple strands of clay onto Teflon sheet. Allow the strands to dry naturally – heating PMC Flex makes it inflexible, so to retain the flexibility let it air dry. After about 30 minutes, gently separate the strands so you have single tendrils.



#### STEP 6

To create a bail, file the inside and outside edges of a suitable sized donut using a sanding sponge and file. Use a straight blade to cut about a third of the donut off. File the cut edge flat and use tweezers to stick this to the back of the pendant using thick paste. Clean up any excess paste with a good quality paintbrush and allow the pendant to dry.

#### MATERIALS

- 5g PMC Flex
- 10g any brand of silver metal clay
- Silver clay paste
- Syringe clay (optional)
- Extruder and multi-hole die
- Texture of a dry stone wall
- Pointed silicone clay shaper
- Circular nesting cutters
- Small steel files
- Sanding sponge
- Straight blade/craft knife
- Tweezers
- Paintbrush
- Teflon sheet
- Long bristled, soft brass brush
- Liver of Sulphur (optional)
- Chain
- Polishing tools

#### RESOURCES

**PMC Flex:**  
[www.bluebelldesignstudio.co.uk](http://www.bluebelldesignstudio.co.uk)  
**Art Clay:** [www.metalclay.co.uk](http://www.metalclay.co.uk)  
**Chain:** [www.cooksongold.com](http://www.cooksongold.com)

#### CONTACT

[www.juliarai.co.uk](http://www.juliarai.co.uk)  
[www.csacj.co.uk](http://www.csacj.co.uk)

# WALL OF GROWTH

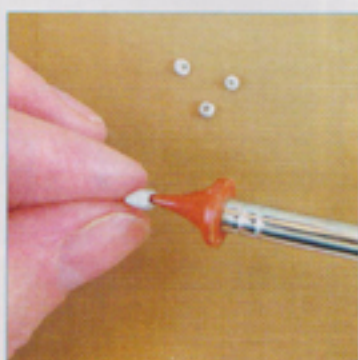
35

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#### STEP 2

Choose a texture that resembles an uneven stone wall. The stone texture needs to be standing outwards not pressed inwards, so use a double-sided plastic texture or a convex texture sheet. Roll about 7g of clay four cards thick and impress the texture. If you're using a very heavy texture you may need to roll the clay a bit thicker or add back a couple of cards before texturing.



#### STEP 3

Leave the shape rough and allow it to dry thoroughly. While it is drying, create some pod-shaped embellishments. Form small pieces of clay into pod shapes by rolling them into a cone and then using a pointed silicone clay shaper to make the pod. Make lots of these in different sizes and shapes. Also roll some tiny balls and put a hole in the top. Allow these to dry.



#### STEP 4

Use a small steel file to add interest to the wall edges when the base is dry. File into the gaps between the stone elements all around the outside of the pendant so the edges resemble a piece of broken wall. Once you're happy with the outside shape, drill a hole or two between stone elements and open them out with a file to look like holes in the wall.



#### STEP 5

Roll out the remaining silver clay five cards thick. Cut a number of circular donuts using round nesting cutters. Different sized brass tube is a good alternative if you don't have nesting cutters. Make more of these than you need and in a variety of sizes. Allow them to dry. The dry donuts and the centre cut-out discs are good resources to keep handy to use in future projects.



#### STEP 7

Use a wad of kitchen paper under the pendant each side of the bail to support it, so you avoid damaging the bail. Take some time to play with the extruded flexible tendrils, balls and pod shapes to make a balanced composition of the embellishments. Decide where the focal point of the pendant will be. Use the tendrils to direct the viewer around the design to other points of interest.



#### STEP 8

Take one of the PMC Flex tendrils and stick it in place with paste or syringe. Stick one end down first and allow this to air dry, without heat, and then bend the tendril so it's standing out from the pendant and stick the other end down. Attach all the tendrils first and allow them to dry before adding the pods and balls. When everything is stuck on, dry thoroughly.



#### STEP 9

Lay the fibre blanket on a kiln shelf and poke a hole in it for the bail. Fire the pendant in a kiln at 900°C for two hours or torch fire, being careful not to melt the fine tendrils. Brush with a soft brass brush, getting under all the embellishments. Add a Liver of Sulphur patina if you like this effect and polish back from the high spots, highlighting the stones.

### Extra Projects Make earrings and a brooch

#### EARRINGS

Create a pair of earrings using the same technique. Make sure they don't have too much embellishment or they may become too heavy.



#### BROOCH

This technique also works well as a brooch design. Add colour to the pod shapes – for instance using shades of green enamel – to enhance the natural growth theme.



#### Designer tips

- PMC Flex has a PMC3 base and can be safely combined with Art Clay Silver or PMC3 as they all fire in the same way.
- Make sure you have completed all the PMC Flex elements you want to continue bending or manipulating before you dry it using heat, as PMC Flex becomes hard when it gets hot.
- Syringe is often a better choice than paste to stick small elements onto the surface as you can precisely place the syringe exactly where you want it.



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37