

Using RMR with Metal Clay

Helpful Hints and Advice from Joy Funnell

Laser cut card textures make excellent texture plates for working with metal clays.

BUT there are a few very important points to remember so you get great results every time.

- Card absorbs any lubricant like oil very quickly. Always add lubricant immediately before use. Roll out your clay ready, then cover with a fresh moist baby wipe (see Step 1) while you apply lubricant to the textures. I find olive oil works the best, and I keep a dedicated flat paintbrush for applying it. By using a brush you can get the oil right into the grooves of the texture. Because the oil soaks in you will need a bit more than you think. Don't drown the texture, but don't be mean with the oil. The more times you use the texture the more it will become soaked in oil and so will need a bit less before each use.
- Clay spreads out when you roll it! Obvious - I know, but it means you need to oil a much larger area of your texture plate than just the bit you want - just in case. If in doubt, oil the whole texture plate! If clay spreads onto an area you did not oil it will stick!
- Tiny particles of clay may adhere to the card texture, so always use separate texture sheets for different types of metal clay i.e. silver, copper, and bronze. This will avoid any cross contamination of clays. ALWAYS remove the clay from the texture before cutting it. Cutting on any texture may damage the pattern and clog the design.
- With care your textures will last a very long while. I still have original texture plates that have been used 100++ times. The oil gradually makes them go darker in colour but they still work fine. Store them flat in a box and be nice to them!
- The process of the laser cutting the card means the texture leaves a slightly rough surface when imprinted onto the clay. If you want nice shiny raised bits to your finished texture smooth the surface of the dry textured clay before firing. To do this make sure your piece is fully dry, then very lightly rub across the surface with a fresh moist baby wipe. Two or three wipes is often enough. Check after each wipe to make sure you are not removing the pattern. I often wipe across the surface once with the wipe, and then use my finger immediately after to wipe across the clay and just smooth the very top of the texture.

I hope you have fun creating!!

Follow these instructions to make a simple double sided textured pendant.

Step 1



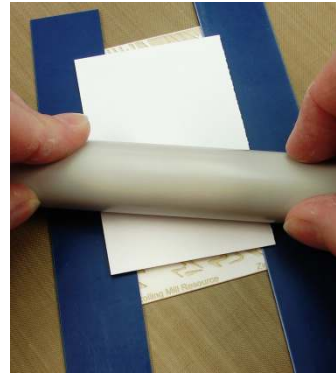
Roll out your clay using 1.5mm (6 cards) spacers on a non stick surface. Cover the clay with a moist wipe while you lubricate the RMR textures.

Step 2



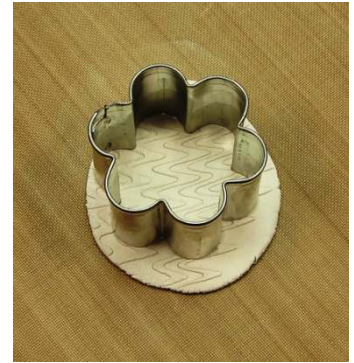
Lay the rolled out clay onto the lubricated Rolling Mill Resource texture. Place 1mm (4 cards) spacers on each side of the clay. Make sure your spacers are sitting on top of the texture.

Step 3



To texture your clay on both sides at the same time lay another texture face down on top of the clay and the 1mm spacers. Make sure your spacers are in the middle of the texture 'sandwich'. Roll across in one firm smooth action.

Step 4



Peel the clay carefully away from the textures and place back onto the non stick surface. Use a small cutter or a template to cut out your desired shape.

Step 5



Use a small tube or straw to cut a hole for a jump ring. Dry the piece thoroughly.

Step 6



Carefully refine the edges of your piece using a baby wipe or sanding pads. Check there are no sharp edges. Dry your piece again – remember baby wipes add moisture back into the clay. Finally smooth the surface of the texture, if desired, with a moist baby wipe as described overleaf.

Step 7

Fire your piece according to the manufacturer's instructions.

For more information on using and firing all types of metal clays visit the Metal Clay Academy at <http://www.metalclayacademy.com/metal-clay-resources>

Polish your piece to a nice shine. Add a jump ring and a chain or cord and it is ready to wear.

Step 8



To add contrast to the texture and show the designs up much better patinate it with Liver of Sulphur, and then polish the high spots back to silver.