

Arroyo Pendant

By Toni Pullen

The magnificent desert Southwest offers a varied landscape of colors, textures, hills and valleys. Brilliant sunsets often yield breathtaking color. Angles of the setting sun glow across mountain ridges like tourmaline.

During the drought season, dry washes boast rivulets and markings where water once flowed while waiting in eager anticipation of imminent rainfall.

With visions of casual Southwest living, comfy jeans and cowgirl boots, this rustic polymer pendant, with hues of copper and turquoise, is anchored to a leather cord with antique copper wire.



Materials List

- ½ ounce Premo! Accents Bronze polymer clay #5519
- ½ cm sized ball Premo! Accents Peacock Pearl polymer clay #5038
- Sculpey Bake and Bond
- Sculpey Gloss or Satin Glaze
- Copper or bronze mica powders
- 1 ½ inches 18 gauge antique copper wire
- 30 inches 24 gauge antique copper wire
- 18 inch tan leather cord with clasp

Tool List – Don't forget Safety Glasses!

- Pasta machine or acrylic roller
- Sculpey Hollow Bead Maker
- 3 round metal cutters – 1 ½ inch, 1 inch & ½ inch
- Texture tool
- Piercing tool
- 6mm ball end stylus
- Wire cutters
- Wubbers Classic Flat Nose Pliers
- Wubbers Classic Round Nose Pliers
- Small paint brush
- Dedicated oven and work surface for clay – ceramic tile or non-stick craft sheet

Safety Tip: Designate an oven for baking clay. Preheat with an oven thermometer and bake according to manufacturer's directions on the package. Do not use a microwave!

Step 1

Condition bronze polymer clay well by working with your hands, running thru a designated pasta machine several times at medium setting or rolling to a thickness of approximately 1/8 inch with an acrylic clay roller. Cut 3 round shapes with the graduated-sized metal cutters.



Step 2

Texture each piece. I used the opposite end of a 6mm ball end stylus to place random strokes.



Step 3

Pierce the largest round shape with a tool making a hole large enough to accommodate the 18 gauge wire.



Step 4

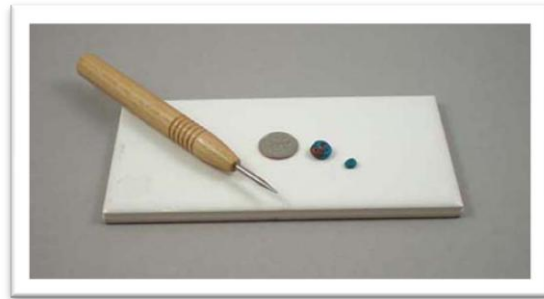
Place each round shape, face down, onto the corresponding sized dome on the hollow bead maker. Gently press down with stylus or fingers to shape while leaving edges uneven for a rustic appearance.



Tip: The shapes can be baked right on the hollow bead maker, assembled and baked again. This tutorial gives instructions on assembling pieces before baking. Either way works well.

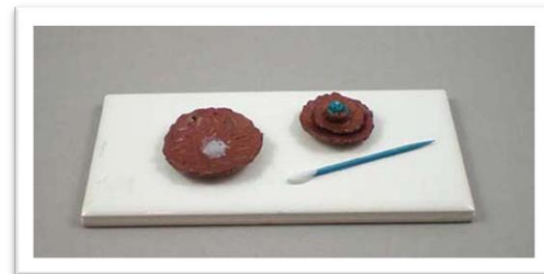
Step 5

Roll a tiny pea-sized piece of clay (mix bronze and peacock pearl) and texture with a piercing tool. Roll an even smaller piece of peacock pearl clay in a ball and pierce. Slightly flatten each piece with the round end of the 6mm ball stylus.



Step 6

Assemble the pendant by stacking the pieces and adding Sculpey Bake and Bond bakeable adhesive between each layer. Bake and Bond can be applied with your finger or a toothpick. Gently press the pieces together.



Step 7

Apply bronze or copper mica powders, or a combination of both, around the edges of the layers and onto the peacock pearl center. Apply with your fingertip or a small soft brush.

Bake the piece on a small ceramic tile in the designated oven according to manufacturer's directions. Let cool completely and seal with polymer clay glaze using a small paint brush. Let dry.



Step 8

Make a bail by cutting a 1/1/2 inch length of 18 gauge antique copper wire. Make a simple loop on each end using a mark about three fourths of the way up on the Wubbers Round Nose Pliers.



Tip: Be sure the loop is large enough to accommodate the pierced hole in the clay and the leather cord.

Step 9

Cut 30 inches of 24 gauge antique copper wire. Begin a freeform style wrap of this wire around the 18 gauge base. Tuck away any sharp ends.



Tip: The wrap can be built up in the middle, freeform-style, or wrapped more precisely, depending on personal preference.

Step 10

Attach finished pendant to bail, by opening and closing the simple loop with flat nose pliers (like opening a jump ring). Slide onto the leather cord. Voila! Boots and jeans are all you need!



Review Questions

- 1) Polymer clay can be baked in a microwave.
 - a) False
 - b) True
- 2) Sculpey Bake and Bond is a bakeable adhesive.
 - a) True
 - b) False
- 3) This pendant is assembled by:
 - a) Baking directly on the hollow bead maker and assembling later
 - b) Assembling with Bake and Bond before baking
 - c) Either of the above
- 4) Why is sealing this polymer clay pendant with Sculpey glaze necessary?
 - a) To prevent mica powders from fading over time
 - b) To give the piece a shiny appearance