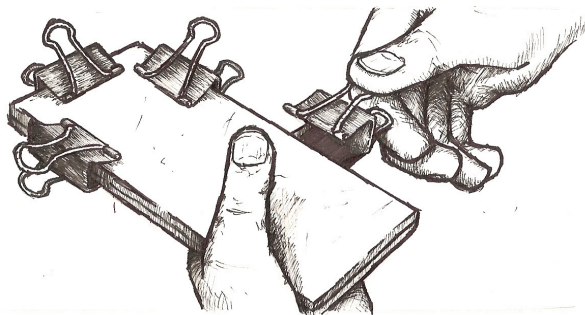


## Techniques and Projects for Combining PMC and Fine Silver Sheet and Wire by *Marian Ward*

### Cuff Bracelet

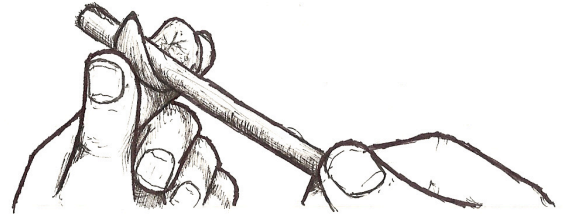
1. Roll a lump of PMC+ to a thickness of 1 or 2 cards so that it is 7 inches long and approximately 1 1/2 inches wide.
2. Cut out designs from the clay using a pin tool.
3. Set your piece aside to dry.
4. Sand any rough edges.
5. Fire at 1650° F for one hour.
6. Refine the shape of your piece using needle files. It is important that the piece remains as flat as possible. Be careful not to bend it.
7. Using the PMC piece as a template, trace its shape with a scribe or marker on top of a 20 gauge fine silver sheet. The fine silver sheet should now be the same size and shape as the fired piece of PMC. (The PMC should now be approximately 6 inches in length.)
8. Using a jeweler's saw cut the sheet of fine silver so that it is the same width and length as the PMC. It is important not to bend the sheet of silver out of shape.
9. Clean the fine silver sheet to remove any dirt, oils, etc.
10. Coat both the fine silver sheet and the back of the fired PMC sheet with a layer of thick slip and make a 'sandwich' with the sheet on the bottom, the slip in the middle and the fired PMC on top.
11. It is very important that there is no space between the two sheets. Use binder clips all around the edges of the combined sheets so that they will dry without gaps.
12. When the piece is dry, remove the clips and check the piece for gaps. Fill any gaps between the two sheets along the edges or in the center where the designs are cut out using a syringe.
13. Using a needle tool, clean up any slip that has seeped out into the cut out design.
14. Re-fire the piece for 3 hours at 1650° F.
15. When it is cool, carefully bend the bracelet around a bracelet mandrel. Check the edges for gaps between the two sheets. If there are any, fill the spaces using a syringe and re-fire the piece (1650° F for at least an hour).
16. The previous step might have to be repeated several times if gaps reappear. When you are satisfied that the piece is solid, with no gaps, use a metal file to refine the edges.
17. Finish the piece the usual way, for instance, with wire brushes, sanding papers.
18. Tumble your piece in a tumbler. Because fine silver is not as strong as sterling, the piece must be tumbled for a long time to work-harden or strengthen it. I usually tumble mine for several days. The resulting bracelet is quite sturdy.



### Flower Basket

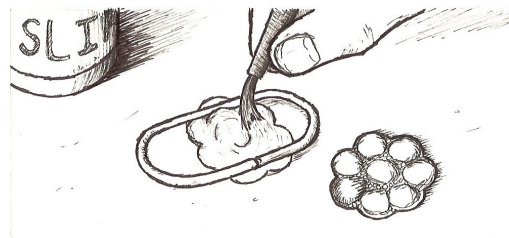
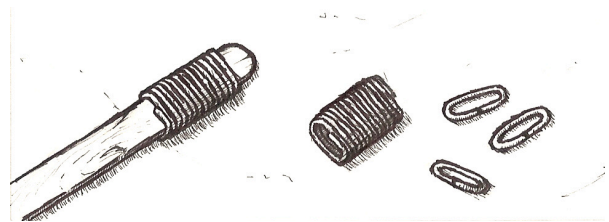
1. Using a scribe or marker, trace a circle onto a sheet of 20 gauge fine silver sheet. The size of the finished basket will depend on the size of the initial circle. (for the model, I cut out a circle approximately 1 1/2 inches in diameter.)
2. Use a jeweler's saw to cut around the scribe marks.
3. Dome the circle using dapping block and punch. (\*see *Resources* for a list of reference books describing this process and other silversmithing and wire wrapping techniques)

4. Press PMC+ into any flower shaped mold or make your own flower design. You will need at least 4 PMC flowers for decoration along the rim of the basket.
5. Roll a small amount of PMC+ to a thickness of 3 cards. Press a small leaf, vein side down, into the PMC+ and cut around the leaf imprint. Repeat two more times for a total of three leaves.
6. Fire the flowers and leaves at 1650° F for one hour.
7. When cooled, bend the leaves around a wooden dowel or knitting needle so that the leaves bend at approximately a 90° angle.
8. Using thick slip, attach the leaves to the base of the basket. Evenly space the leaves (the feet) so that the bowl does not rock.
9. Attach the previously fired flowers along the rim of the basket using thick slip.
10. Fire the piece so that the basket is upside-down, with the leaves in the air. Fire at 1650° F for three hours.
11. After the basket has cooled, make sure that the leaf feet are stable. Adjust them if necessary, bending carefully so that the basket does not rock.
12. Finish the basket by brushing with a brass brush, followed by at least an hour of tumbling in a tumbler.



### Daisy Chain Necklace

1. Wrap 20-gauge fine silver wire around a popsicle stick or other flat object (like a ruler or tongue depressor). Each loop will become a link in the chain--the more loops, the longer the chain.
2. Slide the wire off the Popsicle stick. Using a jeweler's saw or flush cut pliers, cut each loop once in the middle to make an elongated jump ring. Set them aside.
3. Press a small ball of PMC+ into a mold of a flower or other small design. Repeat this so that you have two matching flowers or designs.
4. Take one of the wire loops, making sure that it lies flat, and press one of the PMC+ flowers in the center, making sure that the cut in the wire is covered by the PMC design.
5. Flip the wire/flower over and using a little water or slip, place the other PMC+ flower on top of the original one to make a 'sandwich' with the wire extending in a loop in either direction from the flower.
6. Using a syringe, carefully fill any gaps between the flowers.
7. Repeat the above steps for each loop.
8. Fire the loops in a 1650° F kiln for 3 hours.
9. Fill any gaps that might appear using a syringe, then re-fire. (1650°F for one hour).
10. Brass brush each flower loop.
11. Tumble for at least 20 minutes.
12. Join the loops of the chain with jump rings, split rings or wire wrapping techniques. (\* see References below)



## References

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