

PMC RINGMAKER

Yasutaka Kita

The idea of the RINGMAKER came to me when I was working with PMC to make some rings about three years ago. Back then, I was rolling out a piece of silver clay, wrapped it around a ring stick, reformed it, let it dry and smoothed up the joint to make each ring. I was making about 20 half-round rings at this time, and even though I was used to the ring forming process, it took me more time than I thought to form, dry and reshape each ring. It also took a lot of concentration otherwise the rings might become warped or cracked at the joint. After about 15 rings, I was completely exhausted and felt there had to be another way. It's completely fine if I would only make one or two rings occasionally for the rest of my life but most likely I continue to create my work (including the ones I'd like to sell) in this way and I could not take this much time and trouble each time. I remember seeing fatigue on the faces of the few students who were there to help me, and feeling bad for them, I mumbled "I'm going to do something about it. This is just too much work.." That was when I really started to picture a new way, a way to make perfectly shaped rings without so much time.

After a lot of trial and error and prototypes, the RINGMAKER was created and then put out on the market. I thought of selling the RINGMAKER as a product because I wanted others to use it. I was pretty sure that there were many others who experienced the same frustration and were looking for an easier way. It makes me happy if RINGMAKER can be a small help in other people's creative process.

At the conference, I would like to demonstrate how to use RINGMAKER from the very basic way to some application examples, and illustrate exactly how a ring is formed with RINGMAKER.

The enclosed book [silver ring design] was published last year in Japan. I designed and made all the rings in this book. The book also features PMC and RINGMAKER.

1. How to make a half-round ring

The basic way to make a half-round ring with RINGMAKER

http://www.ringmaker.co.jp/how_to_half_round.html



2. How to make a flat ring

The basic way to make a flat ring using RINGMAKER

http://www.ringmaker.co.jp/how_to_flat_ringmaker.html



3. How to use the shrinkage stopper

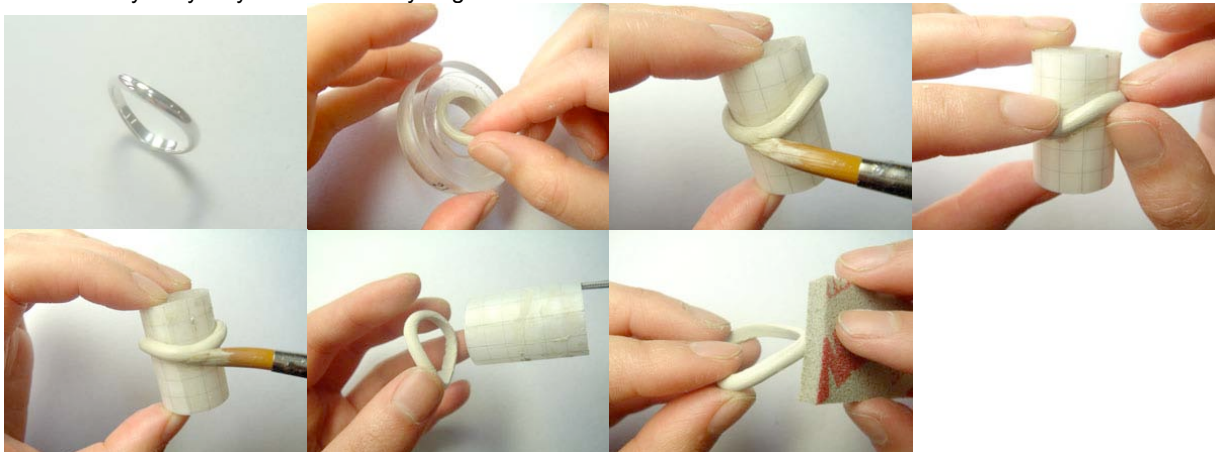
A ceramic shrinkage stopper is used to precisely control the size of your ring.

<http://www.ringmaker.co.jp/ringstopper.html>



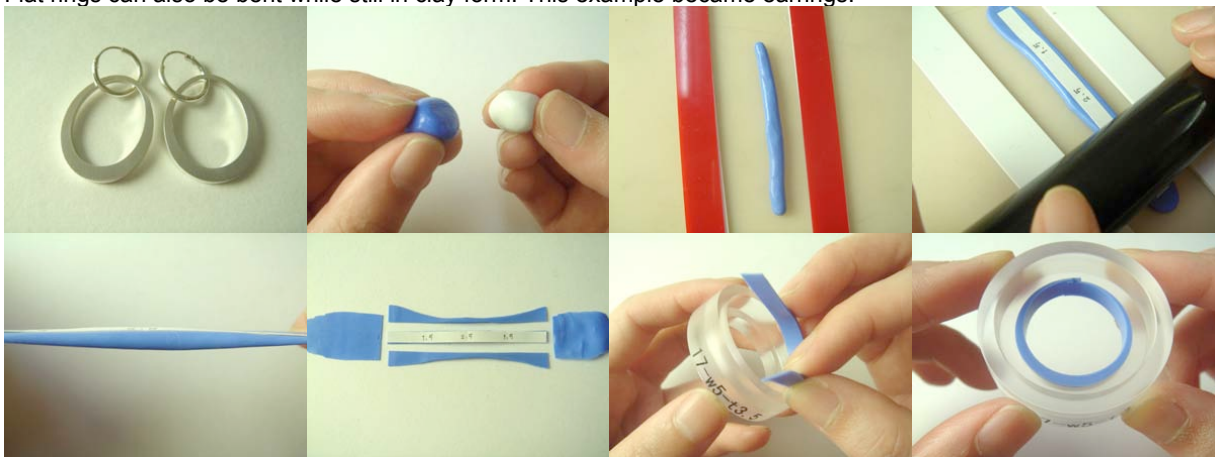
4. Application on half-round ring_ Bending the ring in clay form __

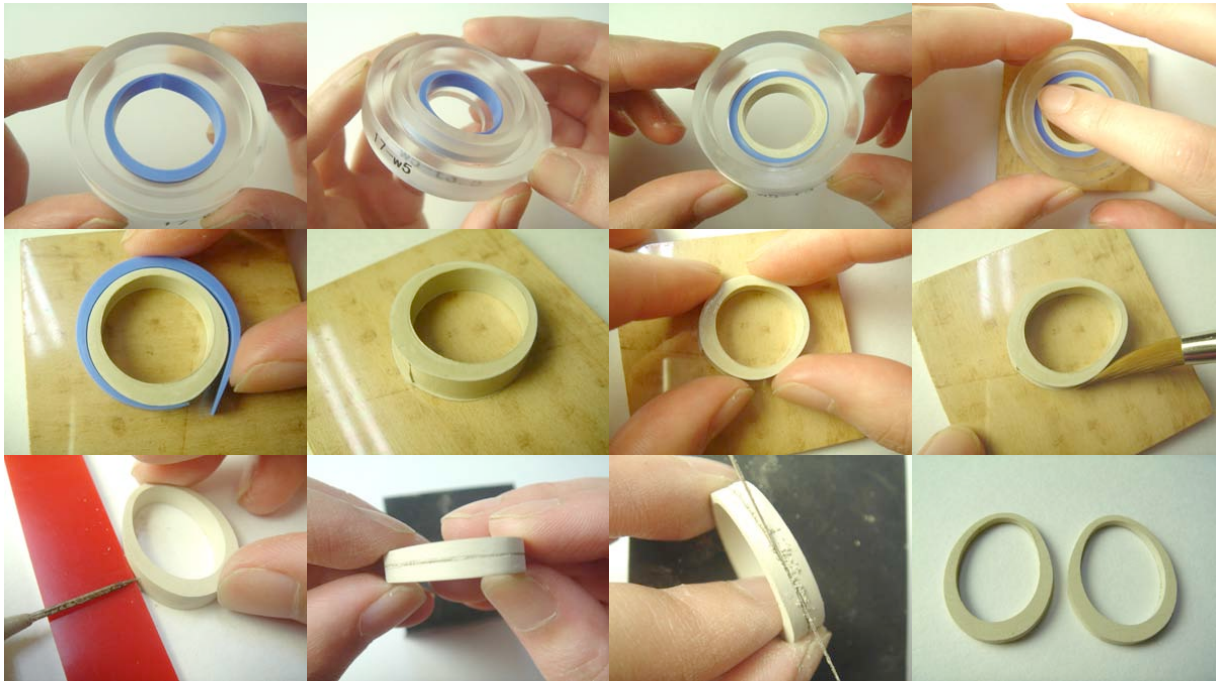
An extremely easy way to make a wavy ring



5. Application on flat ring_ Bending the ring in clay form__

Flat rings can also be bent while still in clay form. This example became earrings.





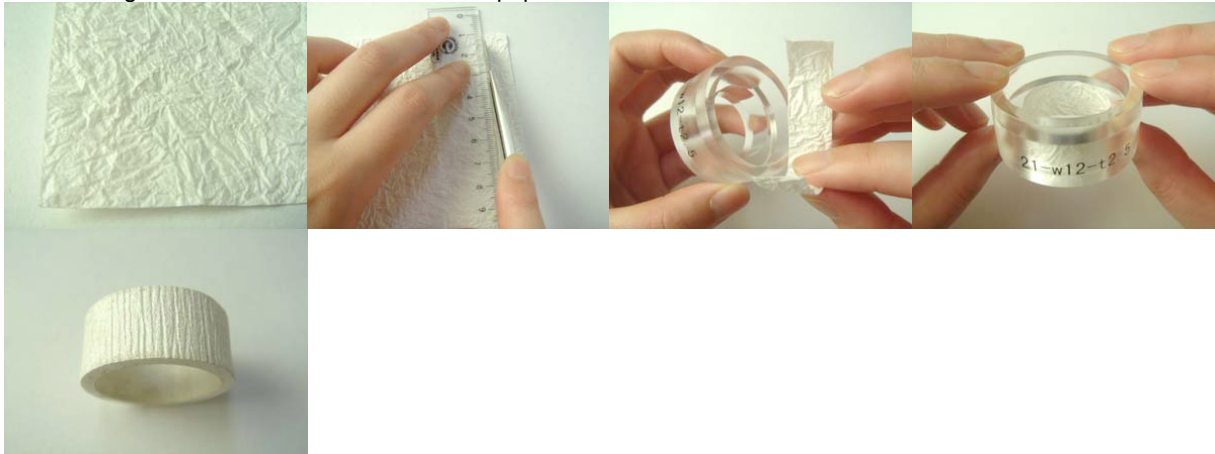
6. Application on flat ring_ Texturing __

Just by placing a textured sheet in the "joint" part of RINGMAKER, the whole ring surface can be textured. This example illustrates how you can use a stamp to make a relief design.



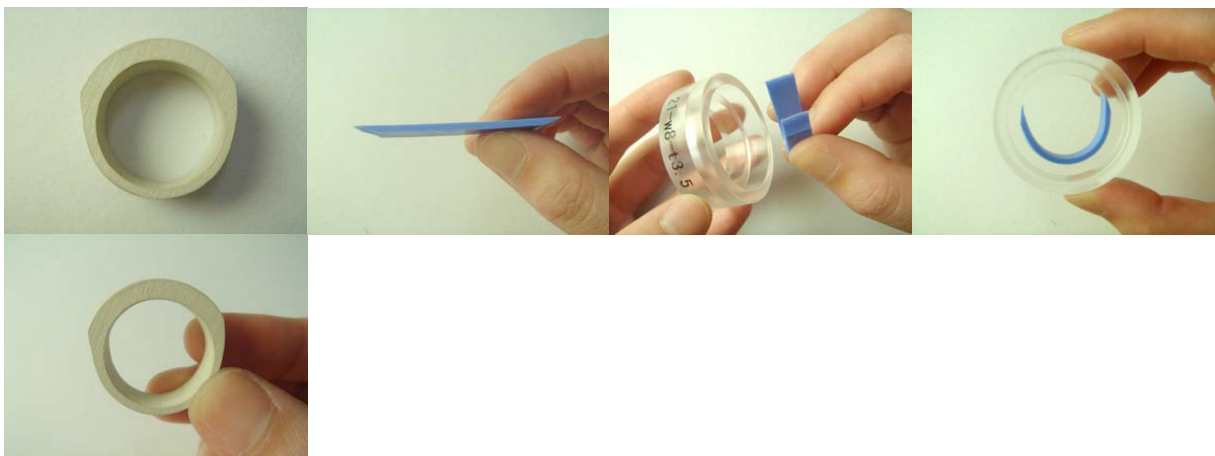


A piece of Japanese paper was inserted in the joint part of RINGMAKER.
 Now the ring has an overall texture of wrinkled paper.



7. Application on flat ring_ Changing the ring shape from the beginning.

If you'd like to make a signet ring or a ring with a large head, you can pre-shape the ring by inserting a piece of silicon inside the joint part.



Casting off from dry form ring using a piece of silicon- By inserting the silicon inside the joint part, you get the second ring so easily.

