

Make Perfect Endcaps

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Prepare your metal clay before you use it to make your endcaps. You want some of the clay to be flexible after it dries. I take a section of metal clay and put a few drops of glycerin and lavender oil (or glycerin and baby oil if you don't have the lavender oil) mush it together so that the section of clay is usable, set aside. (don't use all your clay and keep in a separate container). Cut sections of 20 gauge fine silver into jump rings. Cut the jump rings into circles. Flatten the ends, set aside.

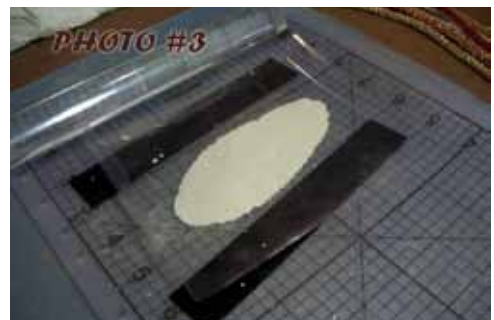
1) Measure the diameter of the item you want to put an endcap on. Find a dowel, knitting needle, pencil, pen or whatever comes close. You want it to be slightly bigger to account for the shrinkage of the metal clay you are using.



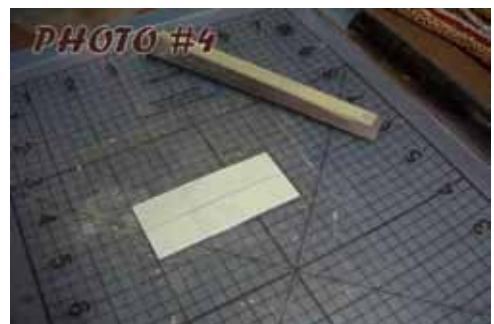
2) Take a piece of waxed paper and tape it completely around your mandrel. Make sure that you can easily pull it off. I tried the clear wrap and it wouldn't let go so I stay with the waxed paper. Set aside.



3) Take your 1 card thick spacers and lay them down with your metal clay. Roll it out as a the long oblong shape.



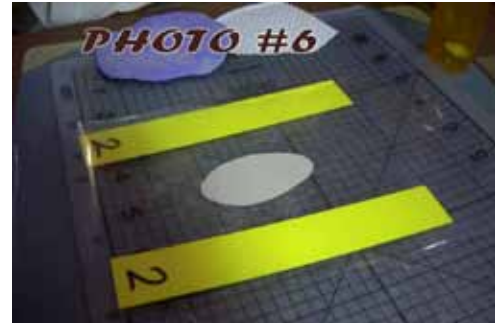
4) Use your tissue blade to cut 2 even pieces down the length of the oblong, trim the ends square.



5) Pick up your covered mandrel and lay the first piece by the edge on the mandrel. Slowly twist the mandrel so that the metal clay will cover itself at least 2 wraps. Use a little slip down the length of the strip. Do this with both strips. Set aside to dry. This is now the body of the cap.



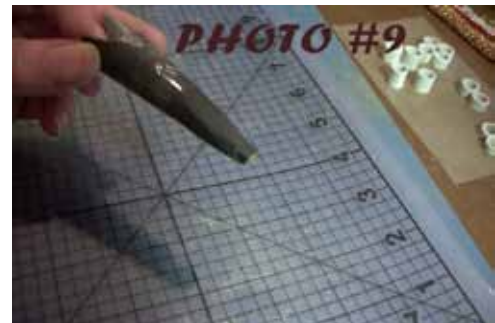
6) Take your prepared metal clay and roll out a 2 card thick strip. Texture how you like down to 1 card thick.



7) Use your tissue blade to cut 2 pieces the same width or slightly larger (as you can trim them) of the ones on your mandrel. Set these aside to dry. Do not put on a hot plate because the glycerin and other oil will burn off leaving the pieces too dry to wrap. When all are dry remove the pieces from you mandrel and sand using a figure 8 action to get them to the same width.



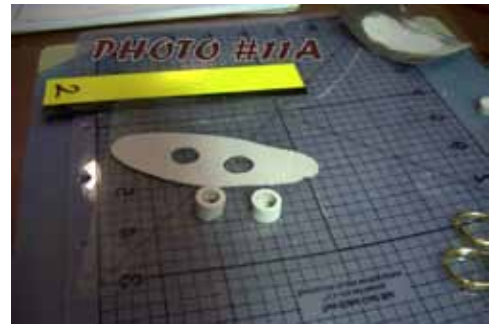
8) Next, take a piece of fine sandpaper and form a cone. Using this cone create a beveled edge on the inside of your cap body.



9) Roll out a 2 card thick section of metal clay. Take the body, bevel side down and push into the new flat section. Do this with both cap bodies. Pull the extra clay away from the bodies.



10) Set up the bodies with the end face up. Push one of your rings into the flat end; let dry.



11) Put a fine layer of slip on the body of the cap. Take your flexible sections and line them up on the seam of the body of the cap. Wrap around the body until it makes one circle. Cut with a scissors and line up the seams. Again use your scissors to make any adjustments in the flexible cover wrap so that it is equal with the sides of the body. Let dry completely.



13) Fire according to the manufacturer's directions. Finish as you wish. Using a two-part epoxy attach to your choice of items.

