



Setting a Stone after the PMC Piece has been Fired by Jeanette Landenwitch

This method is particularly useful for unusually shaped stones. These instructions are for a PMC pendant.

Step One: Choose your cabochon stone, and study it.

1. Looking at it from the top, study its shape.
2. Hold the stone so you're looking at the side of it. Check the thickness and curve of the stone.
3. Study its profile. Not all stones are flat on the bottom.

Step Two: Size the bezel

1. Make an enlarged image of the stone. This can be easily done on a copier or scanner/copier. For Original PMC, enlarge approximately 131%. For PMC+ or PMC3, enlarge approximately 114%.
2. Cut the image out. This will be your pattern guide.

Step Three: Make the firing 'plug'

1. Roll out a sheet of polymer clay thicker than the depth of the stone.
2. Press the stone into the Polymer clay.
3. Carefully remove the stone. **DO NOT COOK THE POLYMER CLAY.**
4. Make a thick mixture of jeweler's investment. This should be thick enough that it can be easily spread into the Polymer mold. A good guide is to make it about as stiff as toothpaste or creamy peanut butter.
5. Spread the jeweler's investment into the mold, being sure to fill into the bottom corners. You want to have a smooth mold on the bottom and around the edges of the plug. Air bubbles will cause a distortion in the PMC bezel when it shrinks to the plug.
6. Let the investment set.

Step 4: Begin the pendant

1. Roll out a sheet of PMC.
2. Place the enlarged pattern onto the PMC. (Use the pattern that was enlarged by 131% for Original PMC. Use the pattern that was enlarged 114% for PMC+ and PMC3).
3. Using the enlarged pattern as a sizing guide, cut out the shape for the pendant.
4. Texture now, or carve a texture after it's dry.
5. Set the pendant base aside to dry.

Step 5: Prepare the firing 'plug'

1. When the jeweler's investment is completely set, remove the 'plug' from its mold.
2. Sand the edges of the 'plug' to remove overflow investment from the top, and to fine tune its shaping to the shape of the stone.

Step 6: Apply the PMC bezel

1. When the base of the pendant is completely dry, the PMC bezel may be applied.
2. Place the enlarged pattern onto the pendant base to use as a guide for placement of the bezel. An alternate method is to draw around the pattern piece, then remove it. Be sure to use a marker that won't wash away with water. Otherwise the guiding lines will disappear as you work.
3. Make the PMC bezel wire.
 - a. Roll out a sheet of PMC, 2 cards thick. Roll the sheet longer than what is needed to go around the enlarged pattern. This will allow for handling of the bezel when applying it, and will assure enough length that it can be trimmed to size.
 - b. Cut the sheet into strips. These strips will stand on end to form the bezel. The width of the strips will be determined by the thickness of the stone. Be sure to allow extra width for shrinkage.





4. With a paintbrush and water, dampen the pendant base around the outside edge of the pattern guide.
5. Pick up an end of one of the bezel strips, and carefully place it around the pattern guide where the water was applied. The dampened area will help grab the bezel as it is placed.
6. Work the bezel all the way around making sure its placement is just outside the pattern guide.
7. Overlap the bezel ends, or butt them end to end. (Note: If they are butted end to end, the joint will pull apart slightly as the bezel dries. Simply fill in this space with PMC, let it dry, and sand to blend it in smoothly).
8. Set the piece aside to dry.

Step Seven: Reinforce the bezel

1. Reinforce the base of the bezel, on the inside and outside. This can be done decoratively, or functionally. Decoratively, there are infinite possibilities. Use your imagination! The only caution is to leave the top edge of the bezel free and accessible as it will need to be pressed over the stone after the PMC piece has been fired. If reinforcing the bezel base functionally, dampen the base of the bezel with water, apply a small amount of PMC, and smooth to blend in. When reinforcing the inside base of the bezel, blend the PMC in so it reinforces the bezel, yet does not interfere with the spacing where the stone will sit. If needed, sand the PMC after it is dry.

Step Eight: Complete the pendant

1. Complete the pendant with embellishments, texturing, bail, and any other planned design elements.

Step Nine: Fire and finish

1. Place the completed pendant onto the firing tile.
2. Place the sizing 'plug' into the center of the bezel where the stone will be set.
3. Fire the piece.
4. After firing, remove the piece from the kiln. Soak the piece in water. This will help facilitate removal of the 'plug'.
5. Finish the PMC piece.

Step Ten: Set the stone

1. Place the stone into the bezel.
2. Using a bezel pusher, press the top edge of the bezel over the stone. First press four spots evenly spaced around each side of the stone, at twelve o'clock, six o'clock, three o'clock and nine o'clock. Then press evenly spaced between these four spots. Work in this manner around the stone until the stone is securely in place.

