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Textured link bracelet



Texture metal clay with lace and embellish it with cubic zirconias and syringe clay to create bracelet links. If you enjoy this technique, turn to page 45 for additional project ideas.

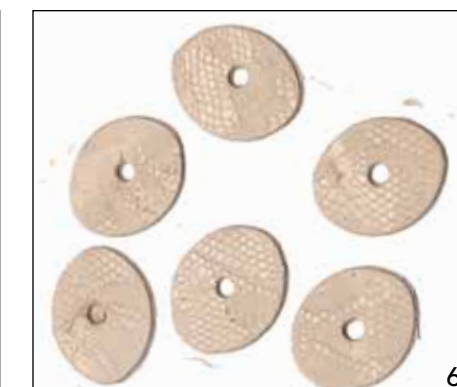
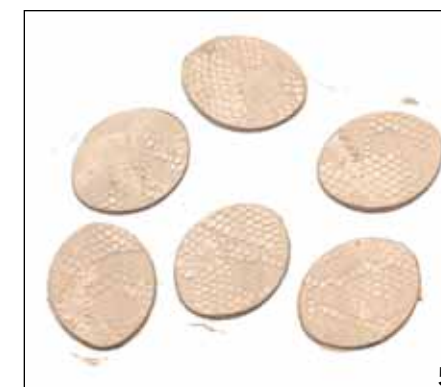
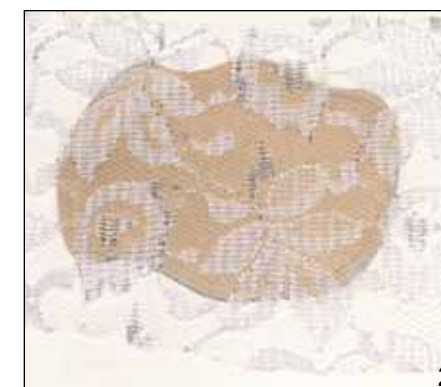
This textured bracelet offers a wonderful opportunity to play with color. Use lace to texture rolled-out clay, punch out geometric shapes with a clay cutter, and embellish each link with a different-colored cubic zirconia (CZ). Connect the links with wrapped loops and bicone crystals in a variety of colors. If you wish, experiment with larger, asymmetrical CZs or different textures.

1 Grease your plastic mat and roller, then roll the clay out to a thickness of three cards **[1]**.

2-3 Add texture by placing the lace on top of the clay (without removing the cards) and rolling the clay again **[2]**. Remove the lace and make sure you have made a clear impression **[3]**.

4-5 Using the clay cutter, punch out the shapes, getting the most shapes out of your piece of clay **[4]**. Remove the excess clay **[5]**.

6 Using an ungreased cocktail straw, punch a hole in each of the shapes where you want a cubic zirconia (CZ) to rest **[6]**. As you punch the hole, the straw should pull out the clay. If the straw does not pull out the clay, take your tweezers and carefully pull out the bit of clay. Be certain not to punch the hole too close to the edge. Leave a margin of at least 3mm between the edge of the clay and the hole.



Leaf imprint pendant and earrings



Combine two natural elements—leaves and pearls—for a memorable pendant-and-earring set. If you enjoy this technique, turn to page 46 for additional project ideas.

Leaves and trees are very inspiring to me, and I love finding ways to use them in my designs. This simple pendant-and-earring set is one of my favorites, and I make different versions when I find new leaves that I like.

You can use cubic zirconias to embellish your metal clay leaves if you wish, but I like to add pearls to mine, letting a natural material complement a natural texture.

Pendant

1 Grease your plastic mat and roller, then roll the clay out to a thickness of four cards **[1]**. Be sure to roll out an area large enough so that it will accommodate the leaf, leaving an additional 15mm of clay where the bail will be located.

2-3 Remove the stem of the leaf. Place the leaf on the clay, vein side down, and roll over it to make an imprint in the clay, making sure that your roller rests on the card stacks at all times **[2]**. Carefully remove the leaf, using tweezers if necessary **[3]**.

4-5 Using a craft knife or scalpel, trim the excess clay around the leaf image, leaving a 1–2mm margin if desired **[4]**. Leave a tapered wedge at least 15mm long for the bail **[5]**.

6-7 To make the bail, liberally grease the cocktail straw.

