

## **Project X .960 and .960 Flex Silver Clays**

### **Clay Revolution, LLC**

#### **Working with Project X .960 Silver Clay**

Welcome to the world of precious metal clay! Whether you're new to this exciting medium or already familiar with silver clay, get ready to be amazed by the exceptional versatility and remarkable strength of Project X .960 Silver Clay. If you've worked with metal clay before, you're in luck because the instructions remain straightforward. Everything you've learned about handling metal clay applies here as well. Utilize your trusted carving and modeling tools, employ the same techniques, and employ the same construction methods you've used with other clays. Remember to clean your tools with a damp cloth when transitioning between clays and keep separate brushes, sandpaper, and sanding sticks for each type. It's worth noting that fine silver and silver alloy clays can be combined and fired together, offering you even more creative possibilities.

#### **The Science**

Introducing Project X .960 Silver Clay, a groundbreaking blend of fine metals. This innovative clay comprises a composition of approximately 96% silver and 4% copper, carefully combined at the microscopic level. Through the addition of water and binder, these metal powders transform into a malleable material, akin to modeling clay, allowing for effortless manipulation. Utilizing basic tools, you can shape and refine your creations before proceeding to the next steps. Following the drying process, additional refinement may be desired. To solidify the pieces and eliminate the binder, firing them in a kiln is essential. This firing process fuses the metal particles, resulting in a finished product that shares striking resemblances to cast sterling silver. Notably, this silver clay possesses comparable properties to traditional precious metals, permitting you to perform tasks such as polishing, soldering, and applying patinas, just as you would with any other valuable metal.

#### **Tools and Work Area**

One of the remarkable features of Project X .960 Silver Clay is its incredible versatility, allowing you to work with it in various settings. When setting up your workspace, choose a comfortable area with ample lighting, and you'll be ready to begin. The beauty of this clay is that your modeling tools can be as simple as rubber stamps, cookie cutters and toothpicks. While it's important to avoid using aluminum foil and tools made of aluminum, you have the freedom to use almost anything else that suits your needs. As you progress, you'll discover the specific tools that work best for your projects. To start off, a basic starter kit typically includes essential tools such as a needle tool, a rolling pin, a couple of small paintbrushes, and a craft knife. Additionally, it's useful to have a roll of plastic wrap, a small cup for water, and either Liberation

Spray or olive oil. For your work surface, a piece of plastic, glass, or ceramic tile provides a reliable and convenient option.

### **Working with Fresh Clay**

To begin, it is crucial to “activate” the binder in your fresh Project X clay. This can easily be done by rolling the clay a few times on a flat surface, by kneading the clay with your fingertips, or a combination of both. If your clay seems dry or firm, the binder has not yet been activated, but once activated, your clay will be smooth, creamy & malleable. **Note:** This may be a different process than metal clay users are used to, but it is an important step to take when using Project X clay and ensures that your clay develops the characteristics that make it a premium clay.

The primary method for utilizing Project X .960 Silver Clay is to manipulate it while it is in its most pliable state. As soon as you open the package, the clay is ready to be shaped and can be rolled out to create sheets of varying thicknesses according to your requirements. Achieve captivating and intricate designs by pressing the soft clay against textures to yield dynamic effects. Take advantage of the clay's malleability to roll it into rods, create tapered shapes, and experiment with curling, twisting, and joining pieces together. When combining different parts, simply sweep a damp brush across the joint multiple times to ensure a secure bond. For larger joints, you can create a paste-like consistency by adding water. This can be achieved by mixing small amounts of dry clay or utilizing the dust generated from sanding. Apply this paste onto the joint and allow it to dry. If necessary, apply several coats to achieve the desired result.

### **Working with Dry Clay**

Project X .960 Silver Clay offers the flexibility of being worked in its dry and unfired state. The typical approach involves shaping the clay while it is soft, followed by allowing it to dry for easy handling. Once dried, you can refine the edges by sanding them smooth, drill holes as needed, enhance textures, and add additional parts as desired.

One of the exceptional qualities of Project X .960 Silver Clay is its suitability for carving. You can utilize knives, gravers, or miniature gouges to incise intricate designs. The clay carves with ease, and in the event of a mistake, simply apply fresh clay into the groove, let it dry, and carve it again to correct the error.

To join dry parts together, lightly dampen them, apply a small amount of slip with a brush, and firmly press the parts together. The slip acts as mortar between bricks, creating a seamless joint once dry.

### **Firing**

For optimal results, ensure that your work is thoroughly dried before proceeding with the firing process. You can achieve this by allowing the piece to air dry completely, placing it in a warm area, or utilizing a dehydrator, depending on your preference and the available resources.

When it comes to the firing setup, place your pieces on a designated firing shelf. In the case of irregularly shaped items, consider using fiber blanket or vermiculite as a supportive base to ensure stability during firing. It is recommended to position your work toward the back of the kiln, where the heat distribution is more uniform, to promote consistent heating throughout the piece.

During the firing process, aim for a full ramp to reach the desired temperature. This gradual heating ensures that the clay is properly cured. By following these guidelines, you can achieve successful firing of your Project X .960 Silver Clay creations.

Suggested firing schedule on ceramic or fiber board shelf in kiln:

Ramp – Full

Target Temperature – 1,600°F/871°C

Hold time – 1 hour

### **Project X .960 Flex**

Project X .960 Flex is a variant of silver clay specifically designed to offer an extended working period. Unlike other versions of Project X, Flex does not fully solidify at room temperature. This unique characteristic allows for the creation of rolls and sheets that can be stored for future use. Additionally, it enables you to return to partially completed projects several days later to continue working on them. When you wish to sand or carve Flex, it is necessary to dry the object by heating it to approximately 300°F/150°C for approximately 30 minutes. The firing and finishing processes for Project X .960 Flex are identical to those of other fine silver clays.

### **Finishing**

With Project X .960 Silver Clay, you can employ traditional jewelry techniques for filing, sanding, tumbling, and polishing your creations. Similar to other precious metals, any filings or scraps can be sent for refining.

To achieve a captivating dark patina, you can utilize liver of sulfur or a proprietary oxidizer. These solutions will help develop the desired effect on your silver clay pieces.

An advantage of Project X .960 Silver Clay, due to its high silver content, is that it does not produce firescale at the same amount as .925 clays. This characteristic eliminates the need for additional measures to prevent or remove firescale during the fabrication process, saving you time and effort.

By employing these techniques and taking advantage of the unique properties of Project X .960 Silver Clay, you can create stunning pieces with ease and confidence.

## **Special Techniques**

Seasoned artists proficient in metalsmithing will discover that Project X .960 Silver Clay seamlessly integrates with a broad spectrum of traditional techniques. It harmoniously interacts with various silver solder grades, enabling effortless soldering. Additionally, this remarkable material readily accommodates enameling, keum-boo, stone setting, and plating processes. But even more amazing is its ability to be fused similarly to fine silver. In essence, there are no limitations to the range of techniques that can be accomplished on Project X .960 Silver Clay. Artists can confidently explore their full metalsmithing repertoire, knowing that this clay empowers them to bring their creative visions to life.

## **Health and Safety**

While it is an uncommon occurrence, it is possible for certain individuals to experience skin rash or itchiness following contact with the clay. Should you encounter such a reaction, it is advised to discontinue use immediately and seek medical advice if necessary. Remember to wash your hands thoroughly after working with the clay and avoid ingestion. Keep the clay out of reach from children and take necessary precautions to prevent burns during handling and firing processes. By adhering to these guidelines, you can safely enjoy the creative possibilities of Project X .960 Silver Clay.

## **Alloy Specifications**

According to the legal definition, sterling silver is classified as a silver alloy that contains a minimum of 925 parts per thousand of silver. By incorporating higher silver content, a sterling alloy is formed, eliminating the requirement for activated carbon during the firing process.