



**Instructions for Attaching
Mineral Accents to Silver Clay Settings**
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Methods of Mineral Attachment

These instructions were provided courtesy of Tonya Davidson

This section describes four ways to attach Mineral Accents to silver clay. The selection of which to use is governed partly by the stability of the mineral color during heating, and partly by their difficulty of use. It is highly recommended that the artist practice using these methods with small pieces of silver clay before applying them to actual jewelry settings.

Note: Don't water quench settings containing cubic zirconia and apatite because the particles will crack. Allow the settings to cool slowly in the kiln.

Method 1 –High Temperature Method #1

Note: Use this method for large (several mm) pieces of Mineral Accents only. Smaller pieces may come loose from the setting after firing and polishing.

- i. Create the setting.
- ii. Press Mineral Accent pieces into the setting before the clay dries.
- iii. Fire
 1. Fire at temperatures up to 1650F, or lower if appropriate, and providing that the color is stable at that temperature.
 2. If color is not stable at higher temperatures, fire at no hotter than 1200F for 35 minutes

A natural doming of the silver clay occurs during firing that helps capture the individual pieces.

Method 2 –High Temperature Method #2

This method can be used with Mineral Accents that can be fired to at least 1500F. It works well for all sizes of particles, and it is the recommended high temperature method for attaching small (less than 2-3 mm) particles.

- i. Create the setting.
- ii. Form a channel to receive the mineral pieces, either by:
 1. using a syringe of PMC3, or
 2. sculpting the channel directly into the setting.
- iii. Dry, and then fire the setting.
- iv. Tumble the setting, which will create a lustrous finish within the channel to produce reflectivity after the Mineral Accent has been added.
- v. Make a slurry of a powdered glass enamel (Ninomiya N-3 clear enamel from Enamelwork Supply Co. is recommended) and a water-

- base medium, such as Klyr-Fire. Klyr-Fire is Thompson Enamel's water-base medium for adhering powdered enamels to metallic surfaces prior to firing.
- vi. Put the slurry into the channel, and then press the mineral particles into it.
 - vii. Dry the slurry thoroughly, otherwise it will spatter and crack during firing. Finish by drying on a warm surface. Ensure that all Mineral Accent particles are in contact with the dried enamel.
 - viii. When the slurry is thoroughly dry, fire the piece to 1500F for about 7 minutes and then allow it to cool slowly in the kiln.

Method 3 –High Temperature Method #3

Note: Use this method if firing can be performed only to 1200F. It works better for larger particle sizes, as for High Temperature Method #1.

- i. Create the setting.
- ii. Deposit a strip of PMC3 on the setting with a syringe with the end cap removed (to create a wide strip).
- iii. Create a channel in the strip.
- iv. Press Mineral Accent pieces into the channel.
- v. Mold the clay around the pieces to hold them in place.
- vi. Dry, then fire at 1200F for 35 minutes.

Method 4 –Room Temperature Method

This method was used by Hattie Sanderson in making the Empress Ring with purple gold, as described in the September 2005 issue of Art Jewelry Magazine. It works well for all Mineral Accents.

- i. Create the setting
- ii. Form a channel to receive the Mineral Accent pieces, either by
 1. using a syringe of PMC3, or
 2. sculpting the channel directly into the setting.
- iii. Dry, and then fire the setting.
- iv. Tumble polish the setting, which will create a lustrous finish within the channel to produce reflectivity after the mineral particles have been added.
- v. Mix clear two-part jeweler's epoxy resin, or a similar resin such as Colores (from Rio Grande), and place it into the channel.
- vi. Press the mineral pieces into the resin and allow the resin to cure at room temperature. Do not completely cover the pieces, or some sparkle will be lost.

Product Notice and Caution

Mineral Accents are easy to use, non-toxic, and relatively safe. However, the particles have sharp edges and corners, and therefore they can be a severe eye irritant. Be careful during handling to avoid getting any particles into the eyes. Do not touch your eyes during handling of this product. If particles do get into the eyes, flush them with water and then see a physician immediately to remove any remaining particles. Work safely, wear gloves, keep particles away from your eyes, and wash your hands immediately after handling this product. Because JMI has no control over how these products are used, it assumes no liability for any injuries resulting from their use.