

## Procedures Used for Attaching Earring Posts with Clay Bond Plus

Ron Diegle

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- 1) Fire the metal clay earring per the manufacturer's instructions. I used:
  - a. Fast fire bronze clay (FFBC)
  - b. PMC3
- 2) Provide the final desired finish to the earring: burnishing, tumbling, or whatever is desired.
- 3) Ensure the area for attachment is clean (free of tarnish [e.g., bronze or copper articles], fingerprints, etc.) If necessary, clean by abrading the area with emery paper.
- 4) Ensure the attachment point on the earring post is clean.
- 5) Set the earring on a flat surface.
- 6) Mix a small amount of Clay Bond Plus (CB+) in a dish with a brush having short bristles.
  - a. Important: The mixture should be fairly thick so that it can support earring posts that do not have flats.
- 7) Place a very small amount of the mixture onto the exact point of attachment for the post.
  - a. Do not spread it beyond the area of attachment to avoid contaminating the surface around the post with solder.
- 8) Immediately place the post into the mixture and hold the post with tweezers until the mixture begins to solidify. If this takes more than a half minute, the mixture is too thin.
  - a. Hold the post that does not have a flat until it is supported by the mixture.
  - b. Note: If the earring post has a flat, then there is no need to hold the post until the mixture begins to set up.
  - c. Note: When setting a post with a flat into the mixture, use firm pressure but do not force all the CB+ out of the join region.
- 9) Carefully pick up the earring with tweezers; do not touch the post.
- 10) Transfer the earring to a preheated coffee warmer and leave it on the warmer for at least 15 minutes.
  - a. Note: If solder has extruded outside of a flat, use a sewing needle to carefully remove it now. Do not touch the post (to avoid dislodging it from the dried CB+ mixture).
- 11) Then, using tweezers transfer the earring to a firing container. Do not touch the post.
  - a. The firing container should be a small pan or flat tin - not the full size, deep pan used to fire large batches of metal clay. (If the pan is too large, it will take too long to heat up.)
  - b. Small, thin firing containers are sold for use with Accent Silver; these are ideal.
- 12) The firing container should have a ¼ inch or more of activated carbon in the bottom.
- 13) After setting the earring in the container, cover it with activated carbon to the top of the container. Then place the lid on the container.
- 14) Set the container in a kiln preheated to 350C (662F) and leave it for 15 minutes.
- 15) After 15 minutes remove the container and allow it to cool in air.
- 16) After it has cooled, remove the earring and post.
- 17) If desired, light brushing can be used to remove minor discoloration around the join region.