

# Art Clay – Silver Flat Openwork - Syringe

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The syringe can be purchased with three tips:

Blue – Small Round

Green – Medium Round

Grey – Large Round

Syringe work takes PRACTICE – **LOTS** of PRACTICE. If you are good at cake decorating, this should come easily.

- Plan and draw a design. Card stock works well as the work can be transported to the warming table with minimal disturbance. Tape plastic wrap or wax paper to the paper over the drawing. Do not attach it to the table, as it is easier to work if it can be moved around.
- Choose the desired tip. Touch the tip to the paper to start the line, then raise the tip above the surface of the paper and “lay” the line down over the drawn line. Use EVEN pressure to cover the lines. Some corrections can be made if necessary by using a ceramic eraser, a damp brush, or a pointed metal tool.
- Have a film canister filled with distilled water nearby. When the syringe is not in use, put it tip down into the water to keep the clay from drying out. Tips that have been used and have clay in them can be stored in the film canister of water. When you use a tip from the water, immediately after putting it on the syringe, gently squeeze the plunger over the paste bottle to clear out any water in the tip. It is also useful to have a small pad, rag or tissue nearby to dab off excess water.
- If you get excess water on your piece, use a tissue or pad to dry it off. The pieces must be thoroughly dry before firing. Pieces may be set directly on the warming table, on a card on the warming table, or three-dimensional work may be suspended on stands on the warming table.
- When the surface is partially dry, go over the design with a second layer of syringe work. This will strengthen the silver. Allow the work to dry. Remove it from the parchment paper. A third layer of syringe work can be applied to the backside of the piece.
- Allow to dry. Use Art Clay – Silver Paste to paint over the joints and to fill any surface imperfections.
- Finish the piece in the “greenware” state - after it is dry and before it is fired. The Art Clay is fragile in this state, so work gently. Use sandpaper or fine files to remove flaws or to shape the piece.
- Fire and finish.