

Lisa's Tips & Techniques For Foils On Clay

Lay the foil on well-conditioned, uncured polymer clay. Softer clays like FIMO Soft work the best. Firmer clays need extra warming/conditioning for the foil to release. The colored side of the foil should be facing up so that it is visible. For Pearlescent foil (translucent Oil Slick) place the matte side facedown against the clay.

Burnish (rub) the foil onto the clay for 30-60 seconds with your index finger. Use a piece of deli paper or scrap paper between your finger and the foil surface to allow speedier burnishing which creates more heat through friction, eliminating drag caused by body moisture/oil. Use firm, even pressure. It's the heat and not the pressure that causes the foil to adhere to the uncured clay. Pressing too hard may cause surface depressions that will prevent the foil from sticking. After burnishing and while still warm, quickly rip the foil off the clay. Pay attention which end you pull the foil from. This is important if patching is needed. The faster you pull, the better. Also, don't pull straight up, but keep the foil as parallel to the surface of the clay as possible when tearing off the backing.

Small speckles of uncovered clay are normal and aren't usually visible in your finished project. If large spots of clay remain un-foiled, replace the foil Mylar carrier back over the clay, matching the spots over any exposed area. Re-burnish and heat as above, concentrating on the exposed areas. Repeat the application instructions above, but pull from the opposite side of the foil backing when ripping off following burnishing. If this doesn't work after one or two attempts, place a fresh section of foil over the spot and repeat the application steps. For stiff clay, rub the thinnest layer of Fimo Decorating Gel onto clay, wiping most off with your finger before applying foil as directed above.

Lisa's Foils work especially well on uncured two-part epoxy clay. Very little burnishing is required since this material is technically glue in the uncured, workable state.

To learn more of Lisa's foiling techniques and projects check out her books, and DVD's available through on www.amazon.com