



COOL TOOLS

## Using Cool Tools Redy Pellets

Metal clay shrinks about 2-3% as it dries. If you form a ring directly on your mandrel, it will become stuck when it dries and will probably be broken as you try to remove it from the mandrel. To make it easy to remove the ring after it has dried on the form, wrap a piece of freezer paper (slippery side out) around your mandrel before you start working. Cut the paper so that it overlaps about 1/8" or so. Use a piece of tape to secure it, but do not tape the paper to the mandrel. The paper needs to act as a removeable sleeve.

Form your ring on your sleeved mandrel. Once the ring is finished and has dried to the point that the clay appears dry on the surface (about 30 minutes to 1 hour depending on humidity), move it to down 1 size on the mandrel to finish drying. This is to avoid tearing at the seam.



Ring Forming Table					
Desired Ring Size	Form at This Size	Use Pellet Size	Desired Ring Size	Form at This Size	Use Pellet Size
4	6.5	4	8.5	11	8.5
4.5	7	4.5	9	11.5	9
5	7	5	9.5	12	9.5
5.5	7.5	5.5	10	12.5	10
6	8	6	10.5	13	10.5
6.5	8.5	6.5	11	13.5	11
7	9.5	7	11.5	14	11.5
7.5	10	7.5	12	14.5	12
8	10.5	8	12.5	15	12.5

Once your ring seems to be completely dry, remove it from the mandrel by sliding the ring and the paper off in one unit, but be careful at this point. The ring may still be wet at the point where the paper and clay contact each other because the paper has kept the moisture in the clay where it touches. Carefully remove the paper sleeve from the ring by inserting a needle tool between the paper and ring shank, collapse and remove it. Touch the inside of the ring shank to find out if it's actually dry. If it feels cold and damp, it needs more drying. It's important that you never try to fire metal clay that is not completely bone dry because the water will turn to vapor and cause ugly bubbling on the surface of the clay.

When your ring is bone dry, place a Redy Pellet inside the ring that is the size you wish the finished ring to be (following forming table above). Place the ring with the pellet and fire using your selected method. When the ring has been fired and is completely cool, immerse into a container of water to dissolve the pellet. Do not immerse the ring in water when it is hot. This will break your stones and cause a potentially dangerous thermal shock to the pellet.

### Clean-Up & Safety

Do not empty the water with the dissolved investment down a drain! The investment will harden into a concrete-like sediment and lead to clogged drains. Pour most of the water out onto the ground and allow the rest to evaporate. When dry, knock the dried investment out of the container into a trash bin.