

## The Tree of Life Pendant





Toolbox			
2mm Drill (DRL-103)	Pin Vice (HOL-101)	3M Sponge Sanding Pad - Fine (POL-200) and Ultra Fine (POL-201)	Baking Soda
Vermiculite (KLN-812) or Alumina Hydrate (KLN-811)	Brass Brush (BRN-201/203)	Circle Template (TMP-102)	Clayboard (WKS-101)
Clay Shaper (DSN-102)	Clay Thickness Rolling Frame – Size 4 (CRL-404)	Copper Drying Form (FRM-252)	Fine Silver Paper Clay
Low Fire Fine Silver Clay - 9 grams	Metal Ruler	Patina Gel (POL-802)	Pencil
#3 Red Sable Paint Brush (PNT-202)	Scalpel (CRV-106)	Self-Healing Cutting Mat (WKS-200)	Slik (NST-100)

## **Planning Your Design**



1. Start by making a road map of where you will go with your design. On a piece of paper, sketch out a tree. Don't worry about the size, since this is just a guide for the actual tree you will be making. Think of the trunk and branches as overlapping 'Y's.



2. Now trace a 1" diameter circle onto the paper. Make a dot where the hole for the bail will be. Using your first drawing as a guide, sketch a new tree inside the circle. This will give you a better idea of how the finished piece will look.

## **Making the Bead**



1. Roll out a slab of fine silver clay, 4 cards thick.



2. Cut a 1" diameter circle from the slab.





**3.** Apply a bit of Slik to the Copper Drying Form and place the slab on the form. Gently smooth down the edges. Repeat this process so you have 2 domed pieces. Allow the halves to dry.





**4.** When the domes are dry, remove from the Drying form and sand the edges flat on the Fine Sponge Sanding Pad using a figure 8 pattern for an even surface.



5. Put the halves together, rotating them until you find the place where they meet the best. Make a pencil mark that extends from one half to the other as a key for lining them up later.





6. Moisten the flat edge of one of the halves and apply a bit of lump clay along the edge with the Clay Shaper. Moisten the flat edge of the other half, then place the pieces together, lining them up at the pencil marks. Give a bit of pressure to the two halves so they stick together. Don't worry if some of the clay squeezes out of the bead.

7. Allow the bead to dry, then lightly sand the edges to get rid of the

## Collage the Tree Onto the Bead Using PMC Paper

- 1. Select the smoothest side of the bead to be the front of the pendant.
- 2. Use a pencil to mark the spot where the hole will be drilled on the front of the bead. Locate the hole no more than 1/8" from the edge.
- 3. Place your silver clay paper on the self healing cutting mat. If you are using PMC Plus Paper, laminate to double the thickness. (Instructions are on the package). If you are using Art Clay Silver Paper Type, use it as is.







4. Use the illustration you drew in Step 2 as a guide to draw onto the fine silver paper using a pencil. If you want to transfer the guide drawing to your silver clay paper, shade the back of the drawing with pencil, then place on the silver clay paper and trace the design with a pencil.





**5.** Use your scalpel or Exacto knife to cut out the trunk of the tree.







- 6. Brush the area to receive the trunk with a very light stroke of a lightly wetted brush. (The paper will dissolve if too much water is used). A very light brush of water can be applied on top if necessary to help the trunk to adhere. Cut out a variety of tiny pieces of silver paper for branches and twigs. Tiny triangles give the illusion of leaves. Use tiny curves or curved scraps. Do not apply leaves or branches where the hole will be drilled. Let the scraps define the tree.
- 7. A nearly dry red sable brush can be used to pick up and place the tiny pieces. Then dab a tiny amount of water to be sure the pieces stay put.
- 8. Keep adding branches and leaves until you are satisfied with your design.
- 9. Allow the bead to dry completely.





10. To drill the hole for the bail, measure the distance from the hole to the edge. Cut a piece of paper twice as long as the distance from the dot for the hole and the edge, and about 1/4" wide. Fold the paper in half and place the fold on the edge of the bead. On the front of the bead, the mark for the hole should be right at the end of the paper. Turn the bead over and use the other end of the paper to mark the spot for the other hole.



11. Hold the bead gently to drill the holes. Do not try to drill from one side to the other. Each hole is drilled separately. Drill the back, then drill the front. Clear the holes of any debris. Give the bead a good look and fill any pits or imperfections. Then sand any areas that need sanding using an Ultra Fine Sponge Sanding Pad.





- 12. When completely dry, nestle the bead in the Bead Firing Dish.
  - After Firing, use the brass brush to burnish the bead and bring up a soft satin finish.





**13.** Patina the bead with Patina Gel, then neutralize in a dish of water with baking soda added for at least 10 minutes.







- 15. Add a jump ring and chain and it's ready to wear!
  - For a real wow factor, you can apply a gold product such as Aura 22, Accent Gold for Silver, Gold Paste or Gold Foil to the tree.