

PMC CONNECTION KEUM BOO

Keum Boo is an ancient Korean technique that can add stunning gold accents to PMC, PMC+ or PMC3. Thin 24K gold foil will fuse to fine silver at temperatures of 650 - 950 F. This is a permanent fused bond and can be accomplished in the following low-tech method.

MATERIALS:

- PMC (Standard, Plus or PMC3) clay, paste, syringe, sheet – complete a piece which includes a smooth or lightly textured area. Fire but do not clean or polish.

EQUIPMENT:

- hot plate - any brand with high, medium and low settings,
- a finished PMC piece
- Small (#6) paint brush
- Small burnishing tool (agate is best but steel will work)
- Heat resistant gloves
- Long tweezers (12")
- Heat safe side work area i.e. fiber board
- 24K leaf (less expensive, a little more difficult to use)
- 24K gold foil (more expensive, easier to use) Gold foil is available through PMC Connection.

Comment:

Gold leaf is less expensive than gold foil because it is much thinner. This thinness also makes leaf more difficult to handle. It also requires the application of several layers of leaf to obtain the same appearance as foil. Consider both the positive and negative factors in selecting the material which you use.

Also, it is possible to make foil from thin gold sheet. Place 30 gauge 24K gold sheet between two sheets of copper and roll through a rolling mill until you obtain foil thickness.

TECHNIQUE:

Step #1:

Fire but do not finish polish or clean your PMC piece. Make sure you do not clean off the white surface coating in the area(s) you wish to attach the gold. This will provide a better adhesion area and make sure that the two metals fuse properly.

Step #2:

Turn the hot plate to medium-HIGH. The silver piece must be very hot before you apply the foil. You can test the temperature of the burner with a wooden skewer, which will catch fire or blacken if the plate is hot enough.

Step #3:

You can cut the foil to fit an area you want accented. After heating the PMC piece, gently press the gold foil down onto the piece.

Step #4:

Protect your hands with heat resistant gloves and use the long tweezers to hold your project piece.

Warm the piece on the hot plate to at least 650°F. It must be at least this temperature for the metals to begin to fuse.

Gently rub the gold with the burnishing tool. As you burnish the two metals together, you will see the gold become brighter, smooth and bonded. If the burnisher is steel, periodically cool it, dipping it in water. This is most important if using a steel burnisher. If using an agate burnisher, air cool it frequently. This will prevent the gold from sticking to the burnisher.

Step #5:

Repeat the process until you have obtained the results you wish.
Cool the piece.

Step#6

Polish the entire piece using stainless steel wire brush, burnisher, etc.

NOTE: The surface of the piece may be hand polished further with a soft jeweler's cloth.

ENJOY!