



## Polymer Clay Jewelry: The Art of Aging Gracefully with Christi Friesen

### GUIDE TO MOLD-MAKING



**1 Have all the items to be molded ready to go.** They should be clean. Spread them out on a flat surface (such as a piece of plastic, a sandwich baggie, or a square of wax paper). Items with open holes will generally make a better mold if they are pressed onto a sheet of clay first so that any gaps are filled.

**2 Open the silicon containers** – one pink and one white. Use equal parts of each. You can use the entire container, or just a portion of each (or even multiple containers to make a large mold/sheet). Just make SURE you use equal amounts of each color.

**3 Mix the two parts of the putty THOROUGHLY.** You have about 2 to 3 minutes to mix them before the silicon starts to set. You'll know the putty is properly mixed when there are NO streaks at all. The best way to mix is to fold and knead in your palm, or with your fingertips, over and over, quickly.

**4 You can separate the mixed mold material into pieces** to cover smaller items, or use it all at once. There should be enough mold-making material to cover each piece to a thickness of at least a quarter inch all around, and not more than about half an inch.

**5 Immediately press the mixed silicon mold material ON TOP of the item to be molded** and gently pat to cover completely. The material does not usually leave air bubbles or gaps if you press it straight down, and mold it like a dome over the piece.

**6 Leave it alone to cure.** It will take about 20 minutes, but you can decrease the cure time to about 5 minutes with low heat (less than 175 degrees F). Allow about an hour to fully harden before use, if possible (the mold will still be tender).



### To create a polymer clay impression

from your mold, just roll a small piece of clay into a ball, press it firmly in the mold, remove excess clay, and use your fingers to push the clay away from the borders of the mold. Pop out the impression and apply, or press the clay impression onto fresh raw clay to pull the molded copy from the mold.

**NOTE:** Mold material has a long shelf life, but it's still recommended to use it within 6 to 8 months of purchasing for maximum effectiveness.