

PROMETHEUS SILVER .999 CLAY REVIEW and COMPARISONS 2024

COMPARISON CLAYS - Art Clay Silver and PMC3

(ALL CLAYS, INCLUDING PROMETHEUS SILVER .999 CLAY ARE .999 FINE SILVER AFTER FIRING)

PROCESSING WHILE WET

Out of the packet - Prometheus .999 Silver Clay appears darker than the other fine silver clays. All included clays are .999 silver when fired. The darker colour suggests the binder used in Prometheus .999 Silver Clay is different to the binder used in the other comparison clays.

Out of the packet, the raw clay consistency of Prometheus .999 Silver Clay feels denser and drier than both PMC3 and Art Clay Silver.

After kneading (rolling out and folding a few times) Prometheus .999 Silver Clay feels firmer but is workable and doesn't crack. Adding moisture is **not** necessary. However, if a softer consistency is preferred, add a light spray of water during kneading or a drop or two of PMC Aqua.

Prometheus .999 Silver Clay will not dry out and crack as quickly as Art Clay Silver and PMC3. The working or open time is longer than both Art Clay Silver and PMC3.

Prometheus .999 Silver Clay takes on fine details and textures equally as well as Art Clay Silver and PMC3 but does not stick to texture sheets, moulds and tools as much as Art Clay Silver and PMC3 do. Only a light application of olive oil or release agent is necessary. Because Prometheus .999 Silver Clay's raw consistency is comparatively dry and non-sticky in comparison to raw Art Clay Silver and PMC3. it can be used with paper textures without any problems.

Textured wet Prometheus .999 Silver Clay is denser than Art Clay Silver and PMC3. Prometheus .999 Silver Clay holds its textured form well without distortion and stickiness. Designs and textures can be cut out or pierced easily using a blade, scalpel or fine needle tool with a light application of olive oil or release agent

FINISHING IN DRY STAGE

When completely dry, Prometheus .999 Silver Clay is much firmer and stronger than Art Clay Silver and PMC3. Dry pieces are tough and do not break as easily.

However, this strength also means that Prometheus .999 Silver Clay pieces are more difficult to file and finish when dry. Finishing well prior to the dry stage is recommended to ensure that minimal filing is required after drying. Use Diamond files for filing or finishing as necessary. Dry drilling also takes longer than with Art Clay Silver and PMC3. Preparation for holes in the design should be made in the wet stage and finished after drying with diamond files.

Light wet surface finishing with baby wipes works with Prometheus .999 Silver Clay but excessive water and handling with wet fingers can cause more smearing than smoothing. Carving into the dry clay surface with sharp clay carving tools works well.

When sanding with sanding sponges, Prometheus .999 Silver Clay surfaces appear almost like fired and polished clay. If Prometheus .999 Silver Clay dry items are cupped in hands for a time, the moisture and heat from hands makes them quite flexible again.

JOINING PARTS

When joining dry Prometheus .999 Silver parts together using Prometheus .999 Silver Paste, cemented joints held perfectly after firing. Using homemade paste with Prometheus .999 Silver Clay and distilled water for other projects was also successful.

FIRING THE CLAY

The Prometheus .999 Silver manufacturer specifies two different settings: One hour at 570°C with a shrinkage of 12%, and One hour at 700°C with a shrinkage of 14%.

The second option (One hour at 700°C) is recommended for strength parts or any pieces that need to be bent after firing.

For both options, finished and dried pieces should be placed into a kiln at room temperature and heated to the desired temperature at full ramp.

A test strip of Prometheus .999 Silver Clay (1mm thick) fired using the second method (1 hour at 700°C) could be bent into a "U" shape using only fingers without any problems.

SHRINKAGE

Prometheus .999 Silver Clay shrinkage varies between 12-14%. Less than PMC3 12-16%. More than Art Clay Silver 8-10%

BRUSHING, SANDING AND POLISHING

Fired Prometheus .999 Silver Clay pieces are easily polished to a satin finish using a brass or soft stainless-steel brush.

A high gloss finish can be achieved using sanding sponges, polishing papers, stainless steel burnishers and agate polishers.

With a magnetic polisher, rotary or vibratory tumbler you can achieve a beautiful silver shine.

PATINA

Finished and fired Prometheus .999 Silver Clay pieces can be darkened using liver of sulphur in the same way as Art Clay Silver and PMC3

SUMMARY

Positives: Prometheus .999 Silver Clay

- Has a long open or processing time when wet.
- Captures details very well, less sticky.
- Precise cutting of designs with a scalpel or fine needle tool, without distortion in wet stage easier.
- Less fragile when dry.
- Lower shrinkage rate than PMC3.

Negatives: Prometheus .999 Silver Clay

- More difficult to file, grind and drill in dry state.
- Higher shrinkage rate than Art Clay Silver.

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