

## Carving Your Own Texture Plate to Create a Hollow ACS Bead

### Materials

20 gm Art Clay Silver  
Pencil  
Speedy Stamp  
Carving Tools  
¼" hole cutter  
Non-stick work surface  
Length silk cord  
Regular light bulb  
Roller  
Slats  
Small ruler  
Dehydrator or hair dryer  
Olive oil  
5 gm syringe  
Green nozzle  
Flat end paintbrush  
Files  
600 and 1200 grit sandpaper  
2" round cookie cutter  
Liver of Sulfur  
Hot water  
Cold water  
Scrap wire for hanging  
Bamboo skewer  
2 plastic cups  
1 tbsp. baking soda  
Programmable kiln  
Agate burnisher



1. Draw a variety of small designs on the stamp surface with the pencil. Attach the "v" groove cutter tip into the handle. Carefully cut the designs out of the stamp, keeping the depth as even as possible. Discard the stamp scrap.
2. Apply a small amount of olive oil onto the round end of the bulb. Roll out half of the clay into a ball. Flatten on the worksurface, place your slats on either side, and roll into a circle about 2" in diameter.
3. Transfer the circle onto your carved work surface and roll into the texture you created, keeping the circle as round as possible.
4. Flip the stamp over and allow the clay to fall off into your hand. Place the clay circle back onto the work surface. Use the 2" cookie cutter to cut out a perfect circle. Wrap the remainder of the clay in plastic and place back into the clay ziploc container.
5. With the ruler, place a small mark at ½" inch from an edge and use that as the outside edge mark of the ¼" hole punch. Punch a hole ½" from the edge into the clay and add the clay to your other clay.
6. Gently transfer the 2" clay circle to the surface of the light bulb near the end where it is roundest. Ease the edges of the circle down so they are flat against the bulb. Put a stop (a tool or paper) to prevent the bulb from rolling. Dry thoroughly.
7. After the clay has dried, gently remove it from the bulb and continue to dry for several more minutes until no more moisture remains.
8. Repeat steps 1-7 for the remaining half of the clay.
9. With the remaining clay, roll out a flat piece and cut 2, ½" circles. Place the ¼" hole punch into the center of the ½" circle and punch out the center hole. You should now have 2, ½" in diameter, hole reinforcers.
10. Wet the area around each hole with a damp paintbrush and apply the round, reinforcement around each hole. Make sure the edges are well attached. Allow to dry.

11. To prepare to attach the two sides together, take a flat file and flatten the inside edge all the way around the bead half. Brush all of the filings onto the table but do not discard. Repeat with the other half.
12. Before attaching the two halves, put them together dry, lining up the reinforced holes so they are opposite each other. Check the seams to make sure they meet properly all the way around.
13. Separate the 2 halves again and, with the green nozzle on the syringe type, lay down a thick bead of syringe clay on the flat edge of the bead. While still wet, add the other side, making sure the holes line up. Apply a small amount of pressure to make sure the seams meet firmly. Smooth any syringe that squeezes through the seam with a damp paintbrush. Fill any seam cracks with additional syringe clay. Allow to dry.
14. Use files, the 600 and 1200 grit sandpaper to smooth the seams without disturbing the texture. Repair any exposed seams as needed.
15. Fire the bead at 1600 degrees F. for 10 minutes. Allow to cool.
16. Brush the bead using the stainless steel brush. Burnish the design's highlights with the agate burnisher until shiny. Burnish the hole reinforcements until shiny. Wash the bead well with a paste made from the baking soda and water. Rinse thoroughly.
17. Mix a thumbnail sized chunk of liver of sulfur into a cup of hot water. Stir well with the bamboo skewer. Fill the second cup with clean, cold water. Fashion the length of scrap wire into a hook and hang the bead through the holes.
18. Dip the bead very quickly into the hot water and then into the cold rinse water. Check the colors. You will first get gold, then amber, then magenta, then blue, then black, depending on how long you dip and how quickly you rinse. Continue to use the Liver of Sulfur until you get the colors you want. Then rinse thoroughly under cold water and pat dry. Dispose of the liver of sulfur down the drain while running hot water for 1 minute.
19. Complete your piece by folding the cord in half and threading the loop from front to back through the holes in the bead; then thread the 2 loose ends back through the loop and tighten. Tie the ends of the cord together. Your one-of-a-kind bead is now complete!