

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

Tools and Inventions for Metal Clay

Textured Rolling Pins



Cuff by Patrik Kusek, textured with the Small Textured Rolling Pin in the "Small Points" pattern.



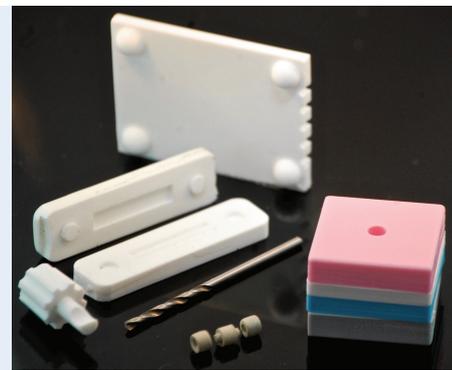
These petite, textured rolling pins were introduced to metal clay artists by Patrik Kusek. They are terrific tools for producing crisp, clear impressions up to six inches wide and as long as you want, since the patterns repeat continuously. These rollers come in 45 different and extremely varied designs, including tiny, raised dots in a random pattern, wood grain, and teddy bears. As long as the rollers are lubricated well, the clay releases from them easily. Because the rollers are only 6" long and 1/2" in diameter, it doesn't require much space to keep a large selection of different textures. You can watch a video of the texture rolling pins in action on the product page of the Aftosa website at <http://www.aftosa.com/textured-rolling-pin.html>.

Magic Hinge Box

Making smoothly functioning hinges in metal clay is almost magically easy with the introduction of the Magic Hinge Box System from Metalclays.com. It forms a non-traditional style of hinge that the manufacturer called a "fire and forget" hinge that consists of a solid center knuckle with integrated pegs ("pins") at both ends that form a built-in hinge pin, and two hollow hinge tubes that slide over the pins to become the outer knuckles of the hinge assembly, which is 4 mm in diameter. Both the pinned and hollow components are formed in the same tubular mold using the included accessories to either shape the pins or drill the hollow tubes. An optional track mold accessory (purchased separately) can be used to create a mounting track or seat for the hinge that also serves as a 90° stop; its wide, flat back provides a larger surface area for attaching the hinge assembly securely to the box, locket, etc. The optional hinge expander accessory can be used singly or in multiples to adapt the mold to create longer hinges. Currently the system is available in only one hinge diameter, although additional sizes may be added in the future.

Creating hinge assemblies with this system is easier than describing the process. Fortunately, the manufacturer has produced a series of videos that demonstrate how to use the various system components that can be accessed on the main product page at <http://www.metalclays.com/c/162/magic-hinge-box-system>. In addition to those videos, there is a newer video that goes through the process from start to finish on the *Metalclays.com* YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7AY_GJuS1w.

For projects such as bracelets that require a number of identical hinges, the Magic Hinge



Box System enables you to make them with precision and consistency. The process takes time because the pinned tube and the two hollow tubes for each hinge assembly are made in the same mold and each of those three components must be dried inside the mold before you can make the others. However, the system's excellent results and ease of use make it practical and worthwhile to build up a stockpile of hinge parts in between other activities or while waiting for other projects to dry.