

## **Metallic & Textured Garden Globes**

**By Michael Harbridge**



### **Clay Lesson Plan**

#### **Objectives**

Create clay shapes and add textures

Work with metallic colors to create the look of aged metal

Seal to protect for outdoor use

#### **Materials List**

**Bisque Puzzler Molds: by ClayPuzzling.com**

BP600 Super Large Globe

BP306 Extra Large Globe

BP307 Large Globe

BP308 Medium Globe

**Tools: By ClayPuzzling.com**

PPT1 Press Tool

KI200 Industrial Hand Extruder

**By Royal & Langnickel**

RSET-POT1 Basic Tool Kit

**Brushes: By Royal & Langnickel**

SG825-4 Soft Grip Bristle Fan

**Colors: by Mayco**

Magic Metallics

MM 102 Copper Metallic

MM 106 Steel Metallic

MM 200 Verde Green Patina  
MM201 Aqua Blue Patina  
MM 204 Purple Tint  
MM305 Rapid Rust  
MM 500 Gloss Sealer  
MM 502 Matte Sealer  
Optional: Glaze of choice

**Clay: By Continental Clay**

Low-Fire Moist Red  
Low-Fire Moist White

**Miscellaneous:**

Wash Cloth  
Vinegar  
Paper Towel  
Newspaper

**Kiln Requirements:**

Capable of firing to cone 04  
Able to hold the size shapes selected

**For additional information, contact the artist:**

Michael Harbridge  
P.O. Box 108  
Iola, WI 54945  
[info@claypuzzling.com](mailto:info@claypuzzling.com)  
[www.claypuzzling.com](http://www.claypuzzling.com)

**Solid-Puzzled Globes**

**Step 1** Dust out the interior of the Bisque Puzzler Mold removing any dust or debris in the cavity.

**Step 2** Tear off pieces of clay and flatten them to the desired thickness. This can be accomplished by pressing clay between your fingers and thumb or by rolling over the surface with an object like a rolling pin, dowel or other round objects. Try to get uniform thickness with each piece of clay.

**Step 3** Press the flattened pieces of clay into each part of the mold cavity slightly overlapping one another. Do not go past the seam line area where the molds will meet. Excessive clay between these parts will not allow the mold to fit together properly.

**Step 4** Press a towel over the entire clay surface forcing the clay chunks together and filling in any gaps.

**Step 5** Place a long coil of clay along one side along the seam line. This should run parallel to the seam line and not go above. Clay going above the seam line will prevent the mold from going together properly.

**Step 6** Lift the half of the mold without the coil and turn it over slowly making certain the clay is stuck to the mold and will not fall out when completely turned over. If the clay appears to want to fall out, drip a small amount of water between the clay and the mold in a few spots and press the clay.

**Step 7** Place the mold halves together and wrap the Velcro strap around the mold, securing tightly.

**Step 8** Stand the mold up and reach in with the press tool and press the coil of clay so it attaches the clay on both mold parts.

**Step 9** Remove the Velcro strap and gently pry the mold halves apart. Do not force the mold parts if they do not come apart easily. Sometimes the molds will need to sit for a while allowing the clay to firm up before the mold will come apart with ease. Forcing the mold open could cause the piece to split.

**Step 10** Once you have one part of the mold removed the other half may need to sit in the other half until firm enough to stand on its own. Remove the other mold half when the piece can stand on its own.

**Step 11** Once the solid puzzled globes are removed from the mold, use the tools from the basic pottery tool kit to smooth the seams and imperfections. Fill in any gaps with moist clay and smooth with the rib and sponge. Use caution with water. Don't allow the item to get too wet or it may collapse.

**Step 12** If you desire the textured finish, use the Bristle Fan to drip vinegar over the top of the clay globe, allowing it to run down the sides. Notice how the clay begins to bubble, giving the rough texture. Use caution when applying the vinegar so large amounts do not puddle at the bottom of the shape. Placing a paper towel under the clay globe will absorb much of the excess vinegar.

**Step 13** Allow the clay globe to dry thoroughly on an absorbent surface like several layers of newspaper or a piece of drywall. It's best to allow a week or more drying time. If you have access to a firing kiln, place the globe on top of the kiln while it fires, following the week of natural drying time. This will help ensure all of the moisture is worked out of the shape.

**Step 14** Fire the globe to cone 04.

**NOTE: If these globes will be used outdoors, it's best to roll a fired glaze on the interior and fire to protect. Moisture can make it through the clay from the inside if not sealed. For indoor use it is not required.**

**Step 15** Use the Bristle Fan to apply two coats of Steel Metallic to the entire Super Large Globe.

**Step 16** While the second coat is still damp, use the Bristle Fan to dab Rapid Rust randomly over the surface, allowing it to drip and run.

**Step 17** As the colors dry, you will notice areas where the Steel Metallic is not rusting. Dab additional layers of Rapid Rust and some areas of Purple Tint.

**Step 18** Allow to dry completely for 24 hours before sealing with two coats of Gloss or Matte Sealer.

## **Extruded-Coil Puzzled Globes**

These globes can be done using white or red clay. If finishing in copper look, red clay will work the best because the color

**Step 1** Dust out the interior of the Bisque Puzzler Mold removing any dust or debris in the cavity.

**Step 2** Follow the basic steps (provided with the tool) for loading and using your clay extruder.

**Step 3** Extrude strands of clay into each half of the mold cavity filling in as much as desired. Keep in mind that large openings between clay strands will make the item more fragile. Extrude extra coils of clay along the bottom area in the mold giving added strength to the clay creation. Do not go past the seam line where the molds will meet. Excessive clay between these parts will not allow the mold to fit together properly.

**Step 4** Press a towel over the entire clay surface forcing the clay coils together.

**Step 5** Create a coil of clay the same thickness of the coils used in the mold and begin attaching it along the seam line of one half of the mold. This continuous coil will go up and down (attaching to one half of the mold at this time) and will result in loops going above the seam line about an inch and then about an inch below the seam line attaching the extruded clay in the cavity. Do not make the loops going above the seam line more than an inch high. Excessively high loops will tend to break off in the next step. Continue with these loops all the way around the mold (on one half only) avoiding the opening where you reach inside.

**Step 6** Gently bend the loop coils inward slightly so when the mold halves are placed together they will not get caught or crushed. Lift the half of the mold without the coil loops and turn it over slowly making certain the clay is stuck to the mold and will not fall out when completely turned over. If the clay appears to want to fall out, drip a small amount of water between the clay and the mold in a few spots and press the clay.

**Step 7** Place the mold halves together and wrap the Velcro strap around the mold, securing tightly.

**Step 8** Stand the mold up and reach inside with the Press Tool and press the coil loops of clay so they attach the clay on both mold parts.

**Step 9** Remove the Velcro strap and gently pry the mold halves apart. Do not force the mold parts if they do not come apart easily. Sometimes the molds will need to sit for a while allowing the clay to firm up before the mold will come apart with ease. Forcing the mold open could cause the piece to split.

**Step 10** Once you have one part of the mold removed the other half may need to sit in the other half until firm enough to stand on its own. Remove the other mold half when the piece can stand on its own.

**Step 11** Place the globe on a surface with several layers of newspaper or other absorbent material like a small sheet of drywall. Allow to dry completely (about a week). Place the globe on top of a firing kiln after one week to make sure you get all of the moisture out before firing to cone 04.

**Step 12** Apply two coats of Copper Metallic to the surface of the coil globes. Before the second coat dries completely, randomly dab Aqua Blue Patina, Green Patina and Verda Green Patina to the surface using a Fan brush.

**Step 13** Allow to dry 24 hours before sealing with two coats of Gloss or Matte Sealer. Allow the sealer to work its way around all the coils inside and out.

## **Striped Globes**

**Step 1** Follow the basic steps for solid puzzling and smoothing listed above but do not add the vinegar. Fire to cone 04 after completely dry.

**Step 2** Apply two coats of Copper Metallic to each globe. While the second coat is still damp, randomly dab Aqua Blue Patina, Green Patina and Verda Green Patina to the surface using a Fan brush. As the products begin to dry, randomly dab Purple Tint over the globes

**Step 3** Allow to dry 24 hours and place desired number of strips of masking tape over the surface.

**Step 4** Apply two coats of Steel Metallic over the globes, avoiding the masked off areas. It's okay if the Steel gets on those areas, but it's not necessary to paint them.

**Step 5** While the second coat is still damp, use the Fan brush to dab Rapid Rust randomly over the surface, allowing it to drip and run.

**Step 6** As the colors dry, you will notice areas where the Steel color is not rusting. Dab additional layers of Rapid rust and some areas of Purple Tint.

**Step 7** Once the shiny wet look has disappeared, begin gently pulling away the masking tape. Remove all tape.

**Step 8** Allow to dry completely for 24 hours before sealing with two coats of Gloss or Matte Sealer.

## **What did you learn?**

- Round shapes can easily be made with the assistance of Puzzler Molds.
- The surface of clay can be altered with the use of vinegar.
- Magic Metallics are real metal and can be aged quickly with special products.