

Butterfly Pendant with Resin Inlay

by Elaine D. Luther



Completed pendant with resin inlay.

Tools & Supplies:

PMC+

Thick PMC slip

Olive oil

Plastic food wrap

Small pieces of Super Parchment
(Teflon paper)

Silicone Texture Plate™ or other
texture plate such as a design made in polymer clay.

Playing cards

Work surface

Roller

Water

Paintbrush, pointed tip

Paintbrush, square end

Carving tool

Tissue blade

Precision Circle Cutter™ or small round
cookie cutter or pieces of metal tubing

Pink sanding board for acrylic nails

Butterfly shaped cookie cutter

Small round cookie cutter
(or homemade template)

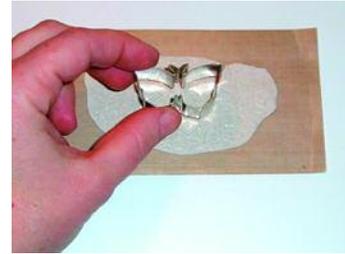
Two-part five minute epoxy

Scrap of card stock

Toothpicks

Powdered enamel (to mix into the epoxy
as a coloring agent)

Editor's Note: This project incorporates a number of Elaine's favorite tools, many of which she sells through her tool supply company, Creative Texture Tools. In most cases, though, Elaine also suggests alternative tools. Experiment to see what works best for you!

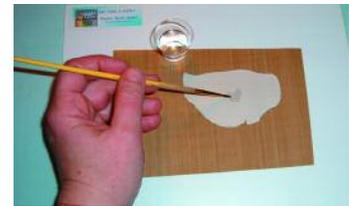


Step 3. Use a butterfly cookie cutter to cut out the pendant. Be careful not to press too hard on the cutter, so you don't cut the Super Parchment. To create the openings where the inlay will go, I use a very small round cutter, but you could also make your own plastic or card stock template, or cut freehand. Cut out round openings on each wing of the butterfly.



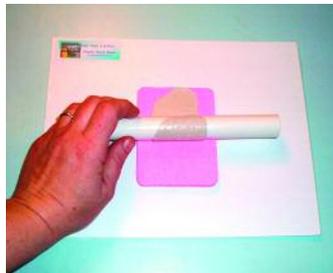
Step 1. Place a piece of Super Parchment in the center of your work surface, and on either side place two stacked playing cards. Put a half package of PMC+ on the Super Parchment, cover with plastic wrap, and using your roller, roll the clay two cards thick.

The bottom will pick up the woven pattern of the Super Parchment, but you want the top to be nice and smooth. You may wish to give it one final roll without the plastic.



Step 4. Roll out the backing piece for the butterfly. (While you work on the back, be sure to cover the butterfly so that it won't dry out.) Roll as before, on top of Super Parchment, until the piece is larger than your butterfly and one card thick.

Paint water on the backing piece, then gently pick up the butterfly and lay it on top of the wet sheet.



Step 2. To add texture with a Silicone Texture Plate, rub an oiled hand over the surface. This is all the oil that is needed. For other texture plates, add oil or baby powder. Pick up your rolled out piece of PMC+, place it on top of the texture plate, and roll over the top of the clay with your roller. If the texture is particularly deep, you may find that now your piece of clay is too thin. If that is the case, you'll want to re-roll your clay to three cards thick before applying the texture.



Step 5. Place the same butterfly cookie cutter you used earlier exactly over the butterfly. Cut through the backing piece of clay and remove the excess. Turn the butterfly and add water to any seams that need it. Smooth them out so that they disappear. Remember to check the seams in the spaces for the resin inlay, as well.

Step 6. Allow the piece to dry to leather hard. Speed this if you like by placing the piece in the oven at 325° F (165° C) for 10 minutes, placing it in a dehydrator, putting it on a mug warmer or old fashioned buffet warming tray, or on top of a hot kiln. In all these cases, keep the Super Parchment under the butterfly until it dries.



Step 7. Once the piece is leather hard, refine the edges using a pink board. These are for acrylic nails and sold in the health and beauty section. Some areas may be too small to get to with the nail board. In those places, use a blade-shaped carving tool and gently carve away any excess, holding the tool and carving the way you might peel an apple with a paring knife.



Step 8. Make a bail using whatever technique you like. I usually use the method shown by Tim McCreight in his video, *Push Play for PMC*. He does it with a regular straw and a beverage stir straw. I love the technique, but I use metal cutters: a Precision Circle Cutter for the inner cut and a small cookie cutter for the outside. You could also use metal tubing, which you can find in an assortment bag at the hardware store.

For this bail, make the outer cut with the larger tubing or small cookie cutter,

then make a center cut with the largest of the four Precision Circle Cutters. Using a tissue blade, cut the donut shape in half, creating two bails. If necessary, apply water to the cut edges to smooth them. Allow to dry to leather hard. Sand, if needed, with the pink nail board.



Step 9. Place the bail in the upper one-third of the butterfly pendant. Using the carving tool or a paintbrush, place a generous dollop of thick slip on each end of the leather hard bail.

Push the bail onto the back of the butterfly, gently pressing down. Excess clay will move to the sides. Remove this with the dry, square-end brush. Dip your pointed paintbrush in water and paint water around the seams to smooth everything and remove the excess slip. You want this seam to disappear entirely.



Step 10. Fire the piece face down at 1470° F (800° c) for 30 minutes. Remove from the kiln, allow to cool, and tumble with stainless steel shot for 30 minutes. Remove, dry, and prepare your work area for the resin inlay.

Step 11. For this project, I'm using two-part five minute epoxy. Devcon is a common brand, available at hardware stores or craft stores. Squeeze out equal amounts of each part of epoxy onto clean card stock. Use a toothpick to quickly mix the two together. Throw that toothpick away. Add your coloring agent; in this project I'm using powdered glass enamels. Using a fresh toothpick, mix in the coloring agent. Throw away that toothpick, too.

Why throw away all those toothpicks? When mixing epoxy, the first toothpick you use may have more resin or more hardener on it. Using that toothpick to apply the mixed epoxy to your project could alter the mixture of the epoxy.

Now carefully apply the epoxy to the butterfly. Removing excess epoxy is messy, so you want to apply the epoxy as neatly as possible. Scoop up a bit of epoxy with another clean toothpick and place it in the center of one of the circles in the butterfly wing. Starting from the center, move the toothpick in a circle, gently spreading out the epoxy until it reaches the edges. Repeat on the other side. Work quickly! This epoxy cures in five minutes. Allow the epoxy to cure in a clean, dry, dust-free environment.

Ta da! You're done. Add a chain and go out into the world, ready for compliments.

