



## FIRING INSTRUCTIONS

**AMC .999 Fine Silver Ultimate Premium & Origami** arrives to you ready to use right out of the package. **AMC's .999** clays have a flexibility (also available without flexibility) to them, extended working time and easy firing instructions. **AMC** clays are made in Australia by Ros Bailey and innovated by Kim Booklass. **AMC** is proud to boast many firsts in the metal clay industry including, the 1<sup>st</sup> and only Argentium .960 metal on the market, 1<sup>st</sup> and only torchable .960 sterling metal clay on the market, the 1<sup>st</sup> metal clay "glue" on the market, the 1<sup>st</sup> metal clay rehydration liquid for metal clay that replenishes the binders as well as many other world firsts. Thank you for joining us on our continued journey of many more firsts.

### Suitability:

**.999 Fine Silver, SS2 .960 Sterling & AMC Argentium** – Suitable for cutting machines, craft punches, textures, molds, etc.

**.999 Origami** – Best suited for Origami/gentle folding and wrapping. For folding, we recommend 1 card thick.. Suitable for craft punches – up to 3 cards thick. Not recommended for molds, textures and cutting machines.

### Safety First:

As with any product, some individuals may incur reactions to the product. If skin rash or itchiness occurs, cease using immediately and wash your hands. If symptoms persist, contact a healthcare professional. P2 or N95 masks, gloves & safety glasses are recommended when work with power – mixing, sanding or polishing. Wash hands after use, do not ingest, keep out of reach of children and pets. Take precautions to avoid burns when handling hot tools and equipment.

### Getting Started:

Your **AMC .999** as well as the **SS2 .960 Sterling** will arrive in lump form in 25g packs (2 25g packs in the 50g). Upon opening your packet, be sure to massage your clay to ensure

the moisture is evenly distributed after shipping. Any opened, unused clay, wrap tightly in plastic wrap and store in an airtight container to maintain hydration.

Your **AMC Argentium Silver** will arrive in powder form in 25g packs (2 25g packs in the 50g). Only make up the amount of clay you will use for the day. Mix the powder with Kim's Silver Clayspray. Spritz your powder and mix thoroughly. Repeat until you reach your desired consistency. If you are not going to use your leftover clay within a period of 24 hours, roll out flat and dry. When you are ready to use your Aussie .960 Argentium Silver clay for a new design, break it up into pieces and rehydrate with your Silver Clayspray.

### Test Strips:

Make test strips approximately 1cm x 2.5cm and 3 cards thick to find the correct kiln temperature for your kiln, as all kilns are different. This applies to all clays. To check for sinter, bend the strip at the end with round nose pliers and if not completely sintered, place back into the kiln and refire stage 2 at a raised temperature of 5 degrees. Repeat until you get a perfect Sinter.

### Creating:

Be sure to **LIGHTLY** lubricate your work surface, roller as well as any textures or molds you may be using (lubricate all items or surfaces that your clay will come in contact with, including tools). A little lubrication goes a long way. If you use too much, you have the possibly of compromising your clay. If your clay seems too wet, let it sit out for a bit and then massage clay. If your clay seems dry or cracks while rolling or working with, add a spritz of Silver Clayspray to moisten.

### Drying:

**.999 Fine Silver, SS2 .960 Sterling & AMC Argentium -NOT Origami** - Once your design has been completed in its "wet" stage, it's time for drying. **AMC** recommends placing your design in a dehydrator at a maximum temperature of 70c/158f. Although you can use a mug warmer/hot plate, we do not recommend





## FIRING INSTRUCTIONS

this method. If you have no other choice than to use a mug warmer or hot plate, do not place design directly on the surface. Place your design, either on a wire rack or a small ceramic tile placed on top of the warmer and flip your design every so often to avoid warping. Be sure to do the dry test – warm your design and place on a mirror. If condensation appears, it is not dry. Last but not least, it is important to note that your clay designs, even when dried, can still accumulate moisture from the air. We recommend firing your design immediately after your successful dry test.

**.999 Origami:** - To obtain the maximum flexibility from your .999 Origami, allow your design to become “skin dry” by air drying. “Skin dry” means you are drying the outside of the clay while leaving the inside supple. Once skin dry, pick up your clay and gently wake it up by lightly rolling both sides and slowly sliding through your fingers. You will notice more flexibility as you proceed with this process. Complete your folding/design.

AMC recommends placing your design in a dehydrator at a maximum temperature of 70c/158f. Although you can use a mug warmer/hot plate, we do not recommend this method. If you have no other choice than to use a mug warmer or hot plate, do not place design directly on the surface. Place your design, either on a wire rack or a small ceramic tile placed on top of the warmer and flip your design every so often to avoid warping. Be sure to do the dry test – warm your design and place on a mirror. If condensation appears, it is not dry. Last but not least, it is important to note that your clay designs, even when dried, can still accumulate moisture from the air. We recommend firing your design immediately after your successful dry test.

### Refining:

The most important piece of advice that AMC can give you regarding refining is to do as much finish work (sanding, smoothing, etc.), before firing. Your dried pieces will still be fairly flexible after drying, making your design less fragile causing less of a potential breakage. When

sanding, be sure to support your piece, either with your hands/fingers or a rubber block, to avoid applying unnecessary pressure on your design. You can also use distilled water or, preferably Claystay to smooth out your designs if need be.

### Joining Pieces:

Using Kim’s Silver Claystay (the 1<sup>st</sup> metal clay “glue” on the market), you can easily join pieces together. The pieces you are joining will need to be flush when connecting. If that is not possible, add a bit of fresh clay to get a flush connection. Joining unfired to unfired – add your Claystay, gently push your pieces together. Hold pieces together for a minute or so which gives the Claystay time to adhere. Unfired to fired and fired to fired – rough up your connection spot on your fired piece with a bit of sandpaper or sanding pad. You will then add a small bit of fresh clay and follow the same steps as fired to fired. For additional help you can watch our video on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpMlwEf6pw&t=384s>

### Rehydrating:

**.999 Fine Silver, SS2 .960 Sterling & AMC Argentium - NOT Origami** - One of the amazing things about metal clay is the ability to reuse all of unfired scraps and “sanding” dust. Break your dried clay in to small pieces or use a coffee grinder. For best results, use Kim’s Silver Clayspray (as of 11/22 release, white bottle of Silver clayspray can be used on all clays, blue bottle only on base metals). Using Clayspray replenishes the binders and flexibility to keep your clay in pristine condition. You can use distilled/demineralized water, **however, you will eventually deplete your clay of its binders and your clay will not perform the way it should.**

**.999 Origami** - Break your dried clay in to small pieces or use a coffee grinder. Use Kim’s **Origami** Silver Clayspray. If you use the non-Origami Clayspray (Silver Clayspray for the Ultimate Premium Silver), your clay will no longer be an origami clay and can be used as





## FIRING INSTRUCTIONS

the non-origami, ultimate premium silver. It will still have a small amount of flexibility.

### Firing:

#### Torch Firing

As of 11/22/2022 released formula, AMC Silvers (.999, Sterling 960 SS2 & AMC Argentium), can be torch fired as well as open shelf kiln fired (no more carbon on the AMC Argentium). As there are many variables, such as torch/flame size, flame strength, thickness, and size of your design, etc., please understand that this is just a guideline and doing test strips will help you to determine your time, etc. We recommend you use a large nozzle torch. Torch firing is not recommended for larger or thicker pieces due to not being able to maintain consistent heat on the entire piece. Your design needs to be **COMPLETELY** dry (refer to the mirror test mentioned above).

Place your design on a steel mesh or a carbon/heat retaining block. Starting from the outside of your design, move your flame around the outside, in a circular motion to heat evenly. You will see a "flame flash" as well as smoke while the binder burns out. Once the smoke has stopped, hold your flame/temp on your design, moving your torch back and forth, until you see pinky salmon color. Based on 3 cards thick, you will hold your flame/temp for:

**.999 Fine Silver & .999 Fine Silver Origami** - 5 to 6 minutes. Thicker and/or larger pieces will require a longer hold time.

**SS2 .960 Sterling Silver** - 5 to 6 minutes. Thicker and/or larger pieces will require a longer hold time.

**AMC Argentium Silver** - 8 to 12 minutes. Thicker and/or larger pieces will require a longer hold time.

#### Kiln Firing:

**Open Shelf** - Your design needs to be **COMPLETELY** dry (refer to the mirror test mentioned above). Kiln fire on a hard kiln shelf on kiln feet. Ramp speed should be Ramp 4

(830C/1526F) or full ramp. Support your design, as necessary. When firing dichroic glass, be sure to stay below the manufacturer's recommended temperature and time. As there are many variables, and all kilns can fire differently, please understand that the firing schedule below is just a guideline and doing test strips will help you to determine your time, temp, etc.

#### Kim's No Fuss Fire Method:

For those of you that utilize Kim's No Fuss Fire, please follow your personal notes and the suggestions taught in Kim's tutorial. Ramp speed should be Ramp 4 (830C/1526F) or full ramp. Support your design, as necessary. When firing dichroic glass, be sure to stay below the manufacturer's recommended temperature and time. As there are many variables, and all kilns can fire differently, please understand that the firing schedule below is just a guideline and doing test strips will help you to determine your time, temperature, etc.

#### **.999 Fine Silver**

Temperature	Hold Time	Notes
700C/1292F-750C/1382F	30 minutes	3 cards
750C/1382F-800C/1492F	20 minutes	4 cards
800C/1492F-830C/1562F	30 min.- 2+ hrs	5+ cards

#### **SS2 .960 Sterling Silver**

Temperature	Hold Time	Notes
800C/1472F	30 minutes	3 cards thick
800C/1472F	45 minutes	4 cards thick
800C/1472F	1 hour .- 2+ hrs	5+ cards thick

#### **AMC Argentium Silver**

Temperature	Hold Time	Notes
820C/1508F	30 minutes	3 cards thick
820C/1508F	45 minutes	4 cards thick
820C/1508F	1 hour .- 2+ hrs	5+ cards thick

**\*\*Rule of thumb – once you have your perfect sinter temperature, add approximately 5/10 minutes per 1 additional card thickness (depending on the size and mass).**





## FIRING INSTRUCTIONS

### Finishing/Polishing:

**Tumblers** – Magnetic tumbler will clean your design. Rotary tumbler will burnish your design.

You can clean your design, right out of the kiln with a brass brush, soap, and water. You can also put your design right in to a magnetic or rotary tumbler. A magnetic tumbler will clean your design and give you more a satin finish whereas the rotary will give you a more burnished higher shine look. To take your design up to a mirror finish, you can use the same process and then use a rotary tool with radial discs and then polishing wheels.

### Hallmarking:

All countries have different rules for Hallmarking your designs. Be sure to look in to what your specifications are for your country.

### Have More Questions?

**Aussie Metal Clay Australia -**

<https://www.aussiemetalclay.com/home/>

**Aussie Metal Clay USA –**

<https://aussiemetalclayusa.com/home/>

**Please join our Facebook Groups –**

**AMC Support -**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2049625218595476>

**AMC USA Support -**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3279930315365536>

**Join our weekly Q/A's on the AMC Business Pages –**

<https://www.facebook.com/AussieMetalClays>

<https://www.facebook.com/AussieClaysUSA>

**Read our FAQ's on the website –**

<https://www.aussiemetalclay.com/frequently-asked-questions/>

**YouTube -**

<https://www.youtube.com/@AussieMetalClays>

**Instagram –**

<https://www.instagram.com/aussiemetalclay/>

