

Torch Firing PMC+ or PMC 3

The equipment needed for torch firing PMC, is a small butane gas blow torch, preferably with a small concentrated flame and a firing brick.

Please note that the torch must be filled with butane gas as opposed to propylene. Only the butane gas will be able to fire the PMC correctly. Butane is available from newsagents and DIY stores and is commonly used in lighters.

To fill the torch, turn it upside down and insert the nozzle of the Butane canister into the small hole on the base of the torch and press down, you should hear a hissing noise as the gas passes through into the torch and the torch will begin to feel cold, when the gas starts to spurt out the torch is full.

To light the torch, hold it with the nozzle pointing down and turn the valve at the foot of the nozzle slightly to the on position, you should here a small hissing sound, light the gas with a lighter and leave burning for a few seconds before tuning the valve further on for a bigger flame.

Only PMC + and PMC 3 can be torched fired, this is due to having less organic matter and water in the mixture, which allows it to be burned off at a quicker rate leaving the silver to fuse together.

Step 1.

Prepare your PMC as normal into you desired shape, set aside and leave to dry out completely. It is important that you leave the PMC to dry out completely before firing, especially with larger pieces; this will ensure that there is some control with the shrinkage of the PMC when you start to fire. If some parts of the PMC piece are still damp, it will take longer for the organic matter to burn away, while other dry areas will begin to burn away much quicker, this may lead to some distortion in the shape of your piece of jewellery.

Step 2.

Place your dried PMC onto the firing brick, the firing brick is flame proof but you will need to place it on an old ceramic tile or piece of wood when firing as the heat may travel through the brick and mark the surface underneath. Light your butane torch and begin to move the flame over the PMC, the PMC should start to glow a red colour but be careful the PMC does not start to look liquid in texture, this will mean you have over heated it and the silver is melting. Continue to move the flame over the PMC, it may smoke a little, this is fine, and there may be a slight smell, again this perfectly normal. It should only take between 30 seconds to a minute for it to be fired, for larger or very thick items you will need to fire it for longer. The PMC will have become white in appearance when it is completely fired, you may find it useful to use tongs or tweezers to turn the PMC over to ensure an even firing.

Step 3.

Once firing is complete leave the silver item on the firing brick for 5-10 minutes, please be careful as the firing brick will be very hot. The silver can then be left to either cool naturally or be quenched in water for immediate use. The silver item may be then finished off in the usual way.

SAFTY POINTS!

Please take care when using the blow torch, keep all flammable substances away from the firing area. As the firing brick will become hot do NOT place it on any highly flammable surfaces such as paper and do not put it on to a surface that may be marked by the heat, and old tile, piece of wood or house brick will be fine. Let the firing brick cool down before moving or touching it.

The end of the torch will become very hot, please be careful when handling it

Make sure the Torch and the Butane gas are stored out of reach of children and away from heat and flammable materials.

Keep all flammable and harmful objects out of reach from children.

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