

Table 1: Bronze Clay Comparisons by Melody Cooper 5/11/13<sup>1</sup>

| Type of clay   | Workability   | Color  | Overall critique   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Hadar's Bronze Quick fire</b>                             | Coils well, but does have a tendency to crack if you let it get too dry or overworked. Carving bone dry pieces is less precise than carving pmc, but still yields a pretty good result.   | Yellow goldish tone with a tinge of rose or copper color. Close in color to a high karat gold, like 18K  | I have used this clay on many occasions over the past few years and still love it. All the firings have been successful using the schedule suggested by the manufacturer.  |
| <b>Hadar's Brilliant Bronze Quick fire</b>                   | Same description for workability as the Bronze Quick fire clay above  | Slightly less rose or yellow than the Hadar Bronze Quick fire if you compare them in a good light.   | I love the strength of this clay, excellent for rings. The firing schedule was difficult to get just right with several pieces getting blistered and overfired.  |
| <b>Goldie Bronze (I mixed equal parts of Soft with Hard)</b> | I have just begun working with this clay and therefore my opinions are based on limited experience. I find that this clay is easy to mold, cut, sand and carve. But having less success with coil making .                              | A bit lighter in color than the two clays described above. Close in color to 14K gold.   | The finished color is lovely, and the weight is light, also nice. Less easy to work with than the clays by Hadar. Easier to break in the bone dry stage than the Hadar clays. Careful when carving, it is easy to take away too much too quickly. Shrinks only 5%!                               |
| <b>Bronz clay by Metal Adventures</b>                        | The first non-silver clay I used some years ago. I used it again lately, having discovered an old package in the refrigerator. Good for molding, cutting, coiling, carving. Overworks and cracks easily if handled during drying stage. | Similar to the color of Hadar's Bronze Quick Fire clay. Yellow goldish tone. I made a bracelet and when polished to a high shine everyone thought it was 14k gold. | I still like this clay a lot, but I like Hadar's and the Goldie Bronze clays better for their ability to be mixed when you need them. The Bronz clay is sold in moist form that needs to be conditioned by wedging before using. I prefer mixing from the dry clay in order to assure freshness. |
| <b>Prometheus Bronze</b>                                     | Really such a sandy and coarse grained product that once I opened the bag of clay I immediately placed it back in the package and so it has sat in my refrigerator ever since.  | Do not know since I never fired it.  | Maybe I will try to create a small sculpture since it seems unsuitable for anything else. In all fairness I should mention that they may have improved this product since I purchased it early in the days of bronze clay's advent.  |

<sup>1</sup> This table is based on my opinion of and my experience with these various clays and provided here as a courtesy for my students.

Table 2: Plasticity Comparisons for Metal Clays that I have tried by Melody Cooper StickStoneLeaf.com

| Level of Plasticity based on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the most plastic | Type of Metal clay  | Comments about Plasticity  |
|---|---|--|
| 10  | Original PMC at its best                                      | Nice and moist. Easy to coil, mold, roll into sheets, cut. Beautiful to carve at bone dry consistency. Boo hoo, boo hoo! Why did they discontinue this formula?! |
| 9   | PMC3 at its best  | When PMC3 is fresh it is rating a 9 in plasticity. Rolling coils is possible. Great for carving at bone dry.   |
| 8   | PMC3 when getting overworked or a bit dry and PMC Plus        | PMC3 starts to dry quickly and when it begins to dry the plasticity of this product drops one big point on my table of plasticity.                               |
| 7.5   | Hadar's quick fire Bronze, Brilliant Bronze, and Copper clays | If you use these clays when freshly mixed from the dry it is possible to create coils, texture, roll, cut, and join with relative ease.                          |
| 7   | Bronz clay by Metal Adventures                                | If used while fresh and cold this clay allows quick molding, cutting, and some coiling. Does crack easily during dry time if not left alone.                     |
| 6.5   | Goldie Clay   | Good for molding, cutting and filing. Not as good for coil making.   |
| 3   | Promethius Bronze   | Not very good for fine detail work due to sandy/gritty nature of clay. Cracks easily.  |

I created this table in order to help answer questions posed to me regarding how the non-silver metal clays compare to PMC. It is based upon my experience and my opinions only with the intent of helping my students decide what clay to choose.