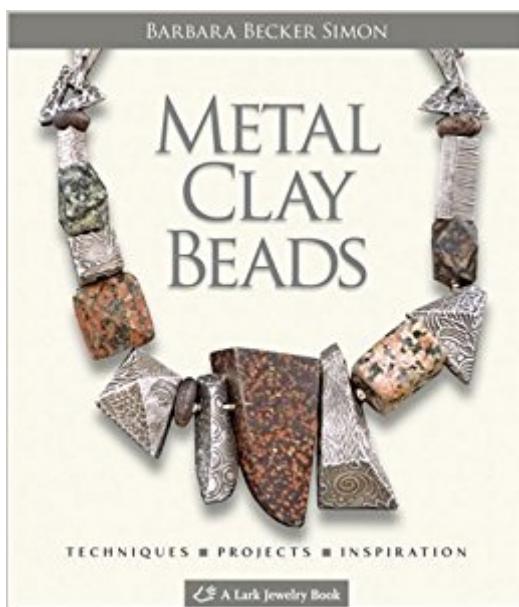


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# Metal Clay Beads: Techniques, Projects, Inspiration (Lark Jewelry & Beading)



## Synopsis

When you combine two bestselling topics like metal clay and beading, and then add one of the most talented and respected artists in the business, you've got a winning combination. In this unique, comprehensive reference, Barbara Becker Simon treats readers to 22 outstanding metal clay bead projects. An introductory section guides them through all the fundamentals, from forming and joining the clay to firing and finishing. Learn how to add gemstones, glass, and other objects; use molded and carved texture plates; etch photos into a surface; develop rich patinas; and more. From the Porcupine Pearl Bead to a Polygon Box Bead, the projects are both timely and sophisticated.Â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Barbara Becker has been a jeweller for over 35 years and lampwork/bead artist since 1996. She has a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Metalwork from the University of Wisconsin and has taught at several universities.

I'm an advanced metalsmith and glass beadmaker, but I have no metal clay experience. I purchased this book wanting to know enough metal clay basics to be able to get started on my own, but also hoping for sufficient technical information about fabricating more complex forms. This book is the very best of what an instructional book should be. It is well organized, well written and superbly illustrated. There are many variations on the central bead theme, and an abundance of

photo examples of other artists' work, not just the author's. The bead designs are such that any reader could easily find a jumping-off place for one's own ideas. There is sufficient information to allow a metal clay beginner to get started, but enough problem solving information that would also be of benefit to the more advanced artist. The steps are presented in a way that's easy to understand, with adequate photos and illustrations. There are none of the "gaps" of the kind that leave you scratching your head. There is a wealth of information about creating texture plates, and even though photoetching is my specialty I still learned new things. The design of the book is sumptuous, beautiful, and inspirational. The author has managed to create an instructional book using a very limited jewelry form - the bead - and yet she still offers a wealth of information about metal clay fabrication in general. In this sense it is useful in a very broad way. Kudos! This is exactly what I was looking for. Very highly recommended.

I have to agree wholeheartedly with all the other 5-star ratings here! This book is not just about creating beads; it's got lots of info on many aspects of working with metal clay, from tools, to forming and texturing, as well as combining metal clay with other materials. There is extensive information on how to create your own original texture plates using a variety of methods and media. I've never been fortunate enough to take a class with Barbara Becker Simon, but the fact that she is not only an artist but a teacher comes through loud and clear in this book. Techniques and processes are described --both verbally and visually--in such a way that they make perfect sense. (I'm a teacher and I know what it takes to write clear, step-by-step instructions on a specific process; Simon does it extremely well!) Well written with lots of beautiful photos!

This is one of the best PMC books on the market. I am a certified PMC teacher, and have tried several of the projects in this book and recommend it to my more advanced students. While the basic technical info in this book is first rate, it is the projects that set it apart. They are not easy projects, and definitely not for beginners, but if you master them, the skills you use are extremely varied. Ms. Simon is a superb PMC and glass artist, and the examples shown in this book are stunning- and well photographed. Highly recommended for PMC artists who are past the beginning stage and want to really challenge themselves.

Ms Simon's book is a great addition to a metal clay library. I probably would not recommend it to someone just starting out. But for someone who has already worked with metal clay, it is a must have book. This is another one of my books that I return to over and over again. The projects are

unique, well photographed and for the most part easy to understand. There are a few places where the directions may be a little confusing, but Ms Simon is always ready to answer any questions through email. I have many, many, many metal clay books and this is one that I feel was definitely worth the money.

While I'm still a beginner at metal clay, I have at least intro exposure. my instructor had this book and I had to have a copy. The author is truly a jewelry artist and this book's projects are not crafty. She teaches you how to make a few different kinds of more complex beads and they are quite stunning. Many helpful techniques are explained along the way so you learn useful skills. If you have some beginning experience or books and your ready for something more this is a very worthwhile book.

Very creative designs and clear instructions for beautiful beads. Primarily for kiln-fired beads.

This book has some of the most innovative and beautiful projects I have seen in books about Precious Metal Clay. I believe I have the majority of books which have been published on the subject and this one had an amazing variety of techniques and treatments.

Barbara has written a book that is so elementary in the basics of PMC and other metal clays then provides such well written instructions for projects. She is a very talented artist who approaches teaching in a clear and wonderful way.

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