

Floating Flowers RingCore™ Spinner Ring

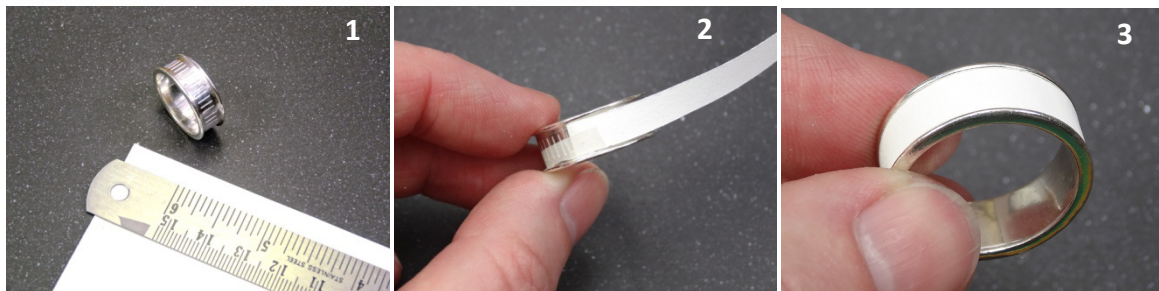
by Joy Funnell

Making spinner rings using RingCores is fun and easy. With a RingCore you don't have to worry about sizing, or breaking it by accident while creating. Simply chose the channel RingCore that fits and you're ready to go!!

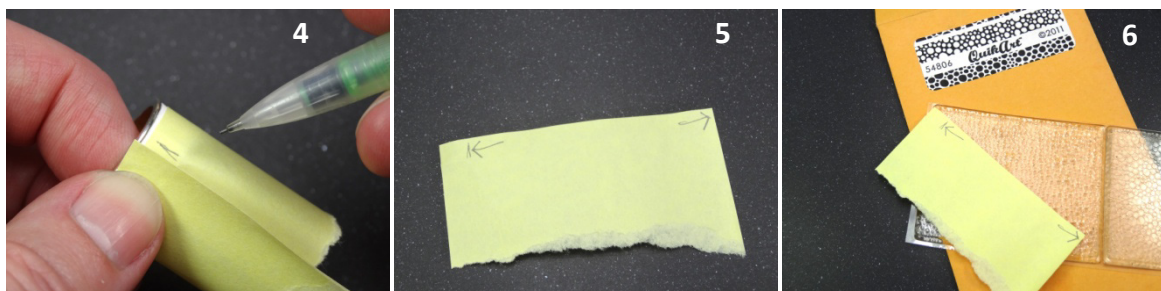


Tools, Supplies & Materials:

- 5g Art Clay Silver
- 8mm Silver Channeled RingCore
- Ceramic Fiber Paper
- Sticky Tape
- Craft Knife and Straight Edge
- Plain paper and pencil
- Plexiglass Snake Roller
- Roller
- Graduated Slats
- Non Stick Surface
- Olive Oil or other Lubricant
- QuikArt Texture Pair Mat No 54806
- Penni Jo Mold - Wild Flights
- Baby Wipes
- Firing Method for fine silver clay (I used a kiln)
- Normal Polishing and Patination set up



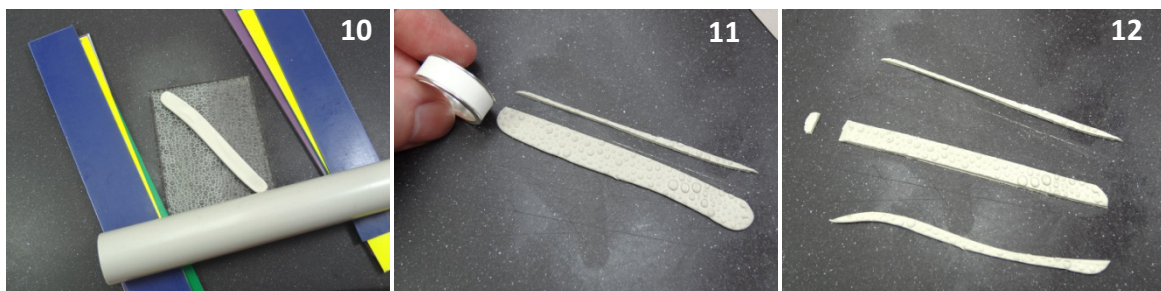
Step 1: Prepare the RingCore. Measure the inside width of the channel of the RingCore and cut a strip of ceramic fiber paper that is a snug fit [1]. Tape the end of the fiber paper inside the RingCore channel ensuring the tape is narrow enough to lay flat inside the channel [2]. Wind the fiber paper tightly around the RingCore and tape the other end down. You need to fill the RingCore channel so the side of the channel is just above the surface of the paper [3]. You may need to cut a second strip of fiber paper to continue on from the first one to fill the channel.





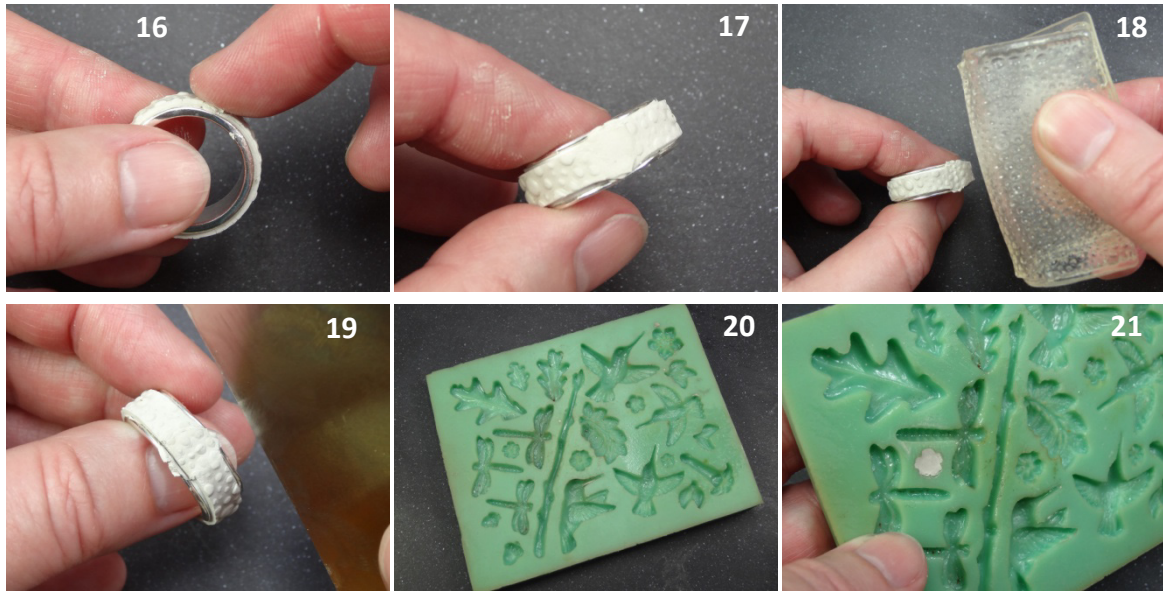
Step 2: Measure the circumference of the ring. Wrap a plain piece of paper around the RingCore and mark where the end overlaps [4]. Undo the paper and lay it flat. The marks show how long a piece of clay you will need to go around the RingCore [5]. Use this paper measure to check that the texture mat you want to use is large enough [6]. I used a QuikArt Texture Pair Mat. As these mats are quite thick you need to build up a stack of slats each side to the same level as the surface of the mat. For this mat the depth was 3.25mm (13 cards) [7].

Step 3: Cut out a strip of textured silver clay. Roll out the silver clay with a snake roller [8]. Use the paper measure to check how long to make the snake. It wants to be slightly shorter than the measure. Lightly oil the work surface. Roll the snake flat using 1.5mm slats (6 cards) [9]. Lay the clay onto the oiled texture mat and place 1mm slats (4 cards) on top the stack of spacers on each side of the mat [10]. Roll across the clay in one smooth even action. Lay the clay, textured side up, onto a non stick surface. Cut one straight edge along the strip [11]. Use the RingCore as a guide and cut a strip of clay that will fit inside the two edges of the channel on the RingCore. Cut one end off at a 45° angle [12]. Use the paper measure and cut the other end off a bit longer than the measure.



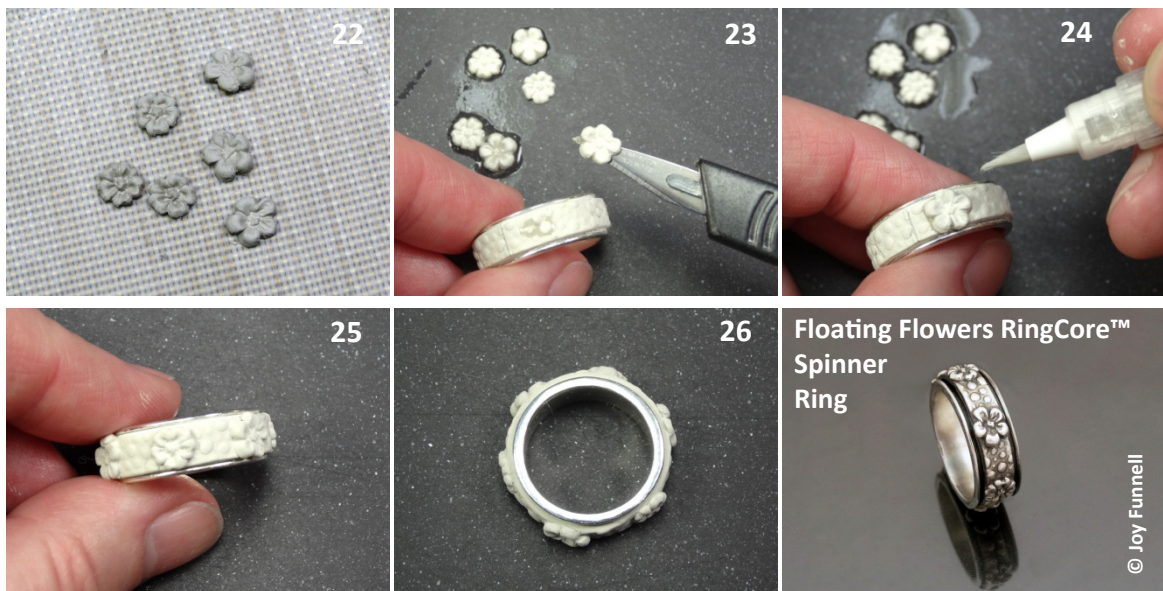
Step 4: Wrap the band around the RingCore. Wet both end of the clay and carefully pick up the textured strip. Lay the tapered end onto the RingCore [13]. Wrap the clay around the RingCore. Make sure it is against the fiber paper all around and not loose, and that it is between the edges of the channel. Overlap the end onto the taper [14, 15]. Wet your finger and then press gently downwards on the overlapped clay until it is the same thickness as the rest of the band [16]. The clay will spread outwards [17], don't worry, that's supposed to happen. Bend the texture mat and gently press it onto the join area to add texture back onto the join area [18]. Use a craft knife or a clay cutter to trim away the excess clay on the sides of the band at the join [19]. Dry well.





Step 5: Make some decoration for the ring band. Adding decoration makes the band more interesting. I used a Penni Jo flexible mold [20] to make some tiny flowers. Oil the mold and fill with a tiny bit of silver clay. Make sure all the clay fits inside the mold shape; remove any excess [21]. Flex the mold and tip the flower out onto a non stick surface. I used two different little flower shapes and made three of each design to go around my ring [22]. Dry the flowers.

Step 6: Refine the ring band and add the flowers. Use a fresh baby wipe to refine the edges of the ring band. Gently smooth both edges of the band with the wipe and ensure there are no rough areas. Then add the flowers. Mark around the band with a pencil where you want each flower to go. Make a puddle of water on your work surface and sit the flowers into it so the back of each re-softens. Use a brush to wet the ring band where a flower will go. Carefully pick up a flower and place it onto the band [23]. Use your finger to press the flower onto the band. Make sure the flower is between the edges of the RingCore channel or your ring will not spin after firing. Use a water pen to clean up around the edges of the flower [24]. Repeat for all the flowers [25]. I spaced mine evenly around the band [26]. Dry the ring well. Check the ring all over and do any final refining. The flowers might need a gentle smoothing with a baby wipe. Dry again



Step 7: Fire and finish the ring. Place the ring into a cold kiln, fire at full ramp to 1475°F (800°C) and hold for 30 minutes. Leave to cool in the kiln, or carefully remove the ring from the kiln using heat proof gloves, and then allow to cool. Once cold take the ring directly to a sink and gently start to turn the ring under running water. The ceramic fiber paper will turn to dust. Keep turning the ring so all the dust washes away. **Important** - make sure you do this under running water; you do not want to breathe in any ceramic fiber dust. The ring might be a bit stiff to turn to start with. This is partly because the back of the silver band will be a bit rough where it was against the ceramic fiber paper. Keep turning the ring and it will start to ease up. This is a good job to do if you are sitting watching TV! Polish the ring up by your normal method. Patinate with Liver of Sulfur and then polish back up to a lovely shine. Your ring is now ready to wear.

Tips

Use a different metal RingCore to the clay for contrast.

Different clays have different shrinkage rates so you might need to add a bit more ceramic fiber paper for higher shrinkage rates.

Base metal RingCores will need to be fired in carbon inside a fine wire mesh cage.

Ceramic fiber paper washes away easily as it turns to powder during firing. If you use ordinary paper it might not clean up as easily.

Available at
 **Metal Clay Supply**TM
www.MetalClaySupply.com/RingCores



JOY FUNNELL produces vibrant, fun jewellery and trinkets in silver and enamel. Her work reflects her mantra - Joy by name, Joyful by nature. As well as creating unique art, she also teaches from her base in Hastings UK, and around the world. Joyful Jewellery made with love.

www.joyfunnell.co.uk

joy@joyfunnell.co.uk