

2. RESPIRATOR/MASK



When sanding, it is EXTREMELY important to protect yourself. The silver clay dust flies everywhere and you do not want to breathe it in. Respirator works best, and there are budget options available, one of which I am linking below. At the very least, use a well fitted FFP3 mask.

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/LAMANICE-Respirator-Chemicals-Woodworking-Formaldehyde/dp/B0DKX8CW1F/>

3. FIRING SET UP



BUTANE TORCH



I use the simplest butane torch that is often used for cooking (think crème brûlée). You can get them in a hardware store or on Amazon – plenty of cheap options. You do not need to invest in an expensive jeweller's torch at all.

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Butane-FLAMETHROWER-Welding-Ignition-Soldering/dp/B0765WWWW8/>

SAFE FIRING SURFACE



You need a safe firing setup. Get whatever is easiest for you to find – a soldering block, fibre brick, or firebrick (like the ones used in pizza ovens). **Suitable materials are: ceramic fiber block, vermiculite fibre brick, or soldering block.** Sometimes it will say what temperature they are rated to withstand, 1200C is a safe bet! You can fire the clay piece directly on them. Make sure what's underneath and around is not flammable. **DO YOUR RESEARCH** depending on your space for the safest way to do this. The picture above is how my setup looks – a large piece of firebrick with smaller pieces around it so the fire and heat are completely contained (probably an overkill, but they all came in a pack, so hey!). TEST FIRST with your torch for a minute just to make sure all is good!

US/International (Cool Tools website):

https://cooltools.us/products/vermiculite-fiber-brick-4-x-6-x-1-1-2?ref=ywrmmwu&_pos=1&_sid=f15b6b62a&_ss=r

UK/international (Cooksongold website): <https://tidd.ly/3lfVSLs> (double pack) or <https://tidd.ly/3K4rPa5> (just one brick)

4. POLISHING

- **ROTARY TOOL**

This will give you the best polish. These rotary tools aren't super expensive and can be handy to have around the house. You will be able to get into all of the nooks and crannies. They're ALSO very useful when filing down dry clay – faster than doing it by hand, especially when you need to reshape the piece quite a bit. These tools come with a variety of useful attachments.



You don't need a big expensive one. I attached here a link to a very simple cheap option from Amazon. Useful if it has a 'wheel mandrel' in the set – left pic. It comes with some accessories, but we need just one more attachment for the best polish.

US/International (Cool Tools website):

https://cooltools.us/products/jangklife-cordless-rotary-tool?ref=ywrmmwu&_pos=1&_sid=fd904fb9b&_ss=r

Amazon:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B09CLHYG8G?ref_=ppx_hzsearch_conn_dt_b_fed_asin_title_1&th=1 (I use this exact one, but plenty of similar options at similar prices)

- **RADIAL DISCS (3M is typically the brand name)**



They have been a lifesaver for me, especially with textured pieces. They work fast and get into every little crevice! These disks are put onto a wheel mandrel that comes in the set with your rotary tool, or they are sometimes sold in a set with the discs themselves. You need at least 3 colours of these disks – yellow (coarse), blue (medium), and light green (super fine). **It's best if you also have a fine grit (between medium and super fine), in 3M it is usually a pink colour.** Polish with them in this order! You do not need a polishing compound with these either. Using these is explained in the video tutorial.

Depending on where you live, they may be available in packs (bit more expensive but will last) or one by one (they are like £1 each). Some jewellery components shops may sell single discs. For example, Bellore Rashbel in London lets you just pick as few as you want – check your local area for jewellery supply stores!

US/International (Cool Tools website):

<https://cooltools.us/search?ref=ywrmmwu&q=radial+disc&options=Array&type=product>

UK/international (Cooksongold website): <https://tidd.ly/4nqpW64>

- **SILICONE BURRS**



These can be a little more abrasive than the polishing disks and can therefore get bigger imperfections and deeper scratches off the surface, even after firing. These are optional, but great because they are rigid and you can really put some pressure on them to remove excess silver where you don't need it, but without ruining your piece.

US/International (Cool Tools website):

https://cooltools.us/products/superflex-polisher-dark-grey-flame-set-set-of-2?ref=ywrmmwu&_pos=16&_sid=0e5b6ddfe&_ss=r

UK/international (Cooksongold website): <https://tidd.ly/4jRexvH>

OPTIONAL

1. POLISHING COMPOUND



Just a little something to make your polish even better, but totally optional because radial disks alone do an incredible job. This is the final stage of polishing, don't skip the previous steps if you are choosing to use this, otherwise it won't work. White compound is typically the one for the finest polish. You use this with a polishing buff.

US/International (Cool Tools website):

https://cooltools.us/products/platinum-white-polishing-compound?ref=ywrmmwu&_pos=6&_sid=33372f8bc&_ss=rUK/international

(Cooksongold website): <https://tidd.ly/3YsRbCD>

2. POLISHING BUFF/MOP



I can't find a link to the exact one I use, but they are often available in the same places you shop for clay. They are called thread polishing mops/buffs. But if you can't get those, try looking for the muslin polishing wheels

US/International (Cool Tools website): <https://cooltools.us/products/white-muslin-polishing-buff?ref=ywrmmwu>