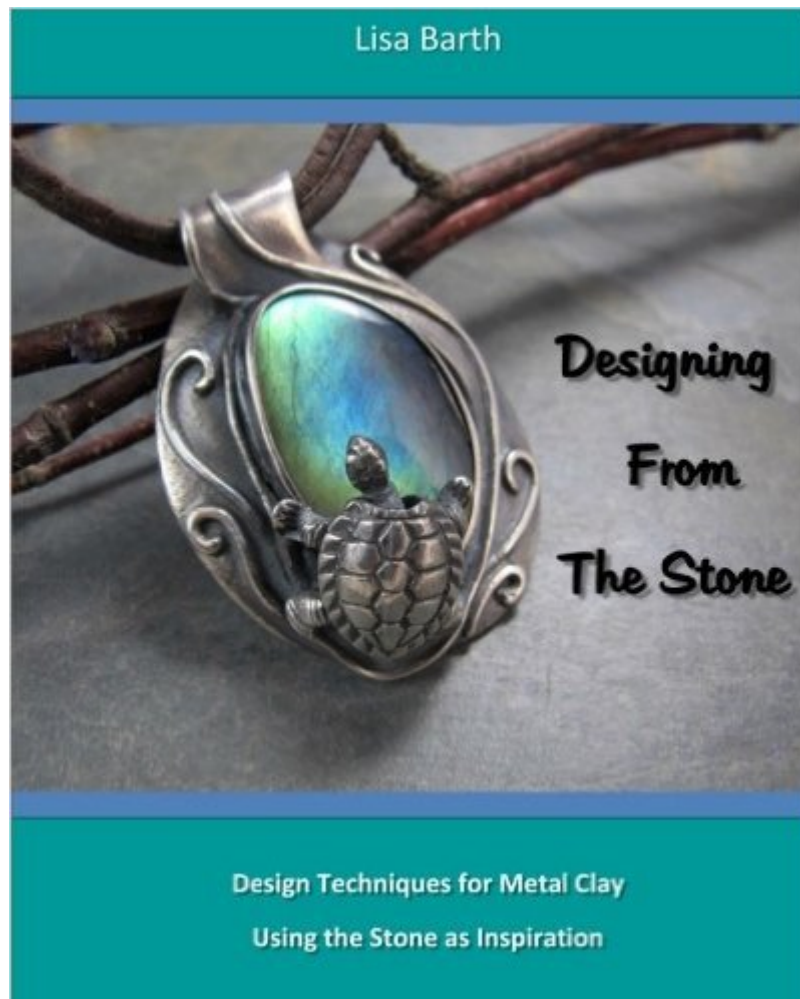


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# Designing From The Stone: Design Techniques For Bezel Setting In Metal Clay Using The Stone As Inspiration



## Synopsis

Designing From the Stone defines the technique of bezel setting with metal clay and teaches how to listen to the stone • before you design the setting. Design principles are applied and illustrated to help you learn to think like a designer and respond to what is inherently offered in the stone. The goal is to create harmony and unity between the stone and the metal setting.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lisa Barth is a lovely person, an incredibly talented jewelry designer, and a terrific writer and teacher. Her new book is a must-have for any jewelry artist who is interested in creating fabulous stone settings with fine silver bezel wire in silver metal clay. Even jewelry artists who do not work in metal clay will find her approach to designing bezel settings that extend and complement the design of the stone thought-provoking. The pieces Lisa uses to demonstrate her design approach for bezel settings are inspiring, and her instructions are clear, complete, and easy to follow. An outstanding book, especially for metal clay artists who want to incorporate more cabochons into their work!

When I started the book I worried that it might be a little weak, because the sections on color theory and principles of design contained very elementary information. However, once Lisa got into the projects, I found the information easy to follow and informative. Each subsequent project built on the skills and design ideas learned in the previous project. Her instructions were very precise, which I appreciated (for instance, she told you to roll out clay "X cards thick", rather than to "roll out clay to the desired thickness" like other books I have. When you're a beginner, who knows what is "desired"?!) There is a lot of repetition, but I think as a beginner's book it's a very effective way of

communicating the technique for bezel settings in metal clay. Someone who is more experienced in metal clay may find that frustrating, but I thought it was a nice introduction for a novice like myself. As a bonus, Lisa is a very talented artist and the book includes beautiful photography of her work, which is always an inspiration.

Lisa is definitely a wonderful artist, and this book shows it. My issue with the book is that it is only 80 pages of large text and pictures and it costs about \$24.00! This seems excessive, and hence the four stars. Having said that, her approach to stone setting is an artistic one that everyone would benefit from learning. She is also quite clever at creating bails that integrate with the piece. In some cases, she makes sure the back of the piece is just as beautiful as the front, which is a nice touch. My brother referred to this book as a "vanity" book. Yes, but she also has a lot of great information to share. I particularly enjoyed her information on how to incorporate bezel wire and gallery wire into the metal clay. Also, she is the only person so far that has taught me how and when to use oil paste and Silver Prep for depletion gilding so that one can attach sterling silver to fine silver metal clay. Worth having and good for beginners like me, but I wish the price were less.

If you are looking for a book that will teach you how to incorporate stones in your work, this is it! It is geared towards metal clay work but the idea of designing with the flow of the stone is valid for all kinds of designs and this book walks the reader through the process.

When I opened my book the first time, I must admit, I was a little dissatisfied (which is why I gave 4 stars instead of 5). The print quality is not very good and some of the pictures did not show up in very good detail. I believe the author may have published the book herself but I stand ready to be corrected on that. However, when I started to actually read the book, I found I really loved it. It is like being a class taught by a very good but very patient and understanding teacher. Her first chapter on why you should not be scared to try new things particularly hit home and really encouraged me. The instructions are very clearly laid out and well explained. I actually think I can do this. The only reason I have not done more work with pmc is because some other classes and examples I have seen are very simplistic (how many stamped pendants does one person need, anyway?). But the projects in this book are detailed, layered and very much; "how did you do that?" kinds of items. This is a great addition to my jewelry making library and I am so glad I got it. Maybe I should give it 5 stars after all!

I purchase and work stones from rough to finished and when mounting them into as pendant or a ring, it only makes sense to do exactly what Ms. Barth practices, which is to design the piece from the prospective of what would make the piece of jewelry or art the most impressionable from the centerpiece of the setting. Designing from the Stone: Design Techniques fro Bezel Setting in Metal Clay by Lisa Barth is one of the most thoughtful books I have purchased on designing jewelry and art pieces. Her book is a visual display of her work and practices of jewelry design. I really like it alot!

This book is going to be my valued "go-to" guide to metal clay techniques. I have a lot of instruction manuals and guides and references, but this book is not only inspirational, but concise and well formulated. All you need in one convenient place (sure, the beginner in metal clay work would need a reference book for beginners in metal clay, but this would be a perfect accompaniment to the beginners' study) .....I loved the book, and my only 'wish' is, I truly wish it was longer with even more techniques and idea stimulators in it ! It's a great book, another "keeper" :)

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