

# Welcome to Metal Finishes

By; Aves Clay

Sculpt Nouveau™ makes it easy to achieve various metalized looks with their Metal Finishes over many surfaces, including one of our most favorite surfaces CLAY! It works really well on both Polymer Clays and Epoxy Clays (particularly Apoxie® by Aves!) which is why we are making this educational blurb.

We offer these Metal Finishes in Silver, Bronze, Gold, Iron, and Copper giving you the options to turn just about any surface into an aged, or rustic metal appearance creating one-of-a-kind pieces of art with all sorts of coloring options!

The Metal Finishes are made up of; Metal Coatings, Patinas, Dye-Oxides, Primer and a Clear Sealer. Sounds cool... but there's a lot of products we just listed. So, How do I use it? Let's break it down!

**Metal Coatings:** work just like paint, **use them on their own to create a metal looking finish!**

These coatings are comprised of actual pulverized metal suspended in a clear base and come in five different colors – bronze, copper, gold, silver, and iron. The neat part about these Metal Coatings is the fact that they are flexible when dry and are resistant to chipping, cracking, or flaking! They are even durable enough to use on items intended for outdoor use!



The Metal Coatings are super easy to use...use a paint brush, sponge, or your finger, (we would recommend wearing gloves to apply with your finger. The coatings quickly dry all by themselves! (No heat needed) clean up easily with soap and water and have no odor.



\*TIPS: for painting this onto non-porous surfaces like polymer or glass a primer "PRIME-IT" is needed before applying the Metal Coating for best results. Just like with paints, a sealer may be desired, "Smart Coat Sealer" comes in flat matte finish, its almost invisible once dry - it won't change the look of your work!

**Patinas:** Patinas are used on top of Metal Coatings to create an effect that makes your pieces appear to be aged and rustic! You can make the metals look tarnished or aged by applying Patinas over the Metal Coating! – This sounds like a lot, but really at this point, just remember that you can use the Metal Coating as a paint all on its own. And then, if you want the aged look, you apply the patina. Easy, right?



The Patinas work through a naturally occurring oxidation process that occurs when a Patina meets metal. Patinas can be used on both real metal and metal-coated pieces. On a piece that has been coated with Metal Coatings, apply Patinas by spraying, dabbing or brushing onto the moist painted surface. This will activate the metal and patina interaction, causing it to 'bloom' over a process of a few minutes and gradually change in color. Because the oxidation process occurs naturally the process will always yield slightly different results, bringing that true uniqueness to your work as it would be in nature! Enjoy the unexpected, and just see what happens!

### **Dye Oxides:**

Dye-Oxides are colorants that allow you to add more colors to your projects! Drip, dab, brush to apply! Why?



Because Dye Oxides are fantastic for adding extra color and depth to your projects AND they can be mixed together to make just about any color you want. These are water-soluble, so they do need to be sealed. The best way is to add some Smart Coat Sealant to the dyes as you use them to make them permanent. Coating after the piece is dry is also an option.

**PRIME-IT:** Use the PRIME-IT to prepare any surface for the Metal Coatings so that the coatings will stay strong and scratch resistant. It's recommended for non-porous surfaces since porous surfaces will take Metal Coatings easily with no extra preparation needed. The Prime-It is white in color, water-based, cleans up with soap & warm water, no VOC, low odor. Brush application, dries quickly. Just like other paints, not all applications need a primer, and based on the effect you're trying to achieve you might not want one!



### **Smart Coat Sealant:**



Use the Clear Sealant to seal all your surface applications to preserve the Metal Coatings, Patinas and Dye Oxides. This sealant is clear, and dries to a flat (almost invisible) finish. This sealant is also great to use over any painted surfaces like acrylics!

There you have it - in sum, each product can be used alone or together. Mix and match for endless design possibilities. \*All Sculpt Nouveau Metal Finish products are easy to apply and used with a variety of surfaces. They are made in the USA, non-hazardous, have very low or no odor and wash up with soap and warm water. Read the package instructions and shake bottles thoroughly before each use. Now it's time to get creative!

## Inspiration: Metal Coatings, Patinas & Dye Oxides on a variety of surfaces



Artwork by [Christi Friesen](#), used with permission.