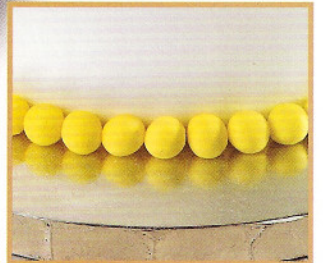
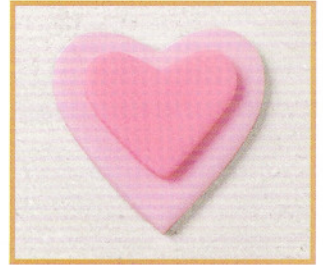




The Wilton Method  
of Cake Decorating

# Fondant and Gum Paste





# Swimming in Silver

## Stunning Syringe Seahorse

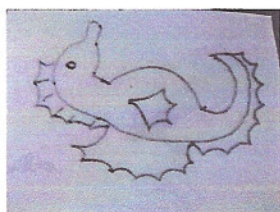
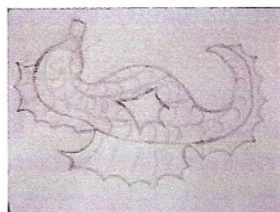
Contributed by Barbara Diane Hance



### Supplies Needed:

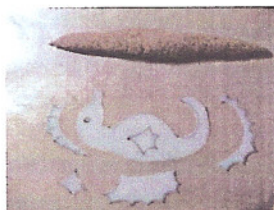
Fine Silver Pin Back, 55mm  
 Nonstick work surface  
 Clear plastic sheet  
 Fine marker  
 Scissors or craft knife  
 Needle Tool  
 Cork Clay  
 20g Syringe (pink or green tip, cut to 18gauge)  
 Sandpaper  
 1-3 mm Stone for Eye  
 Roller  
 Tooth Picks  
 16-20 gm Metal Clay  
 Slats or Cards  
 Paint Brush  
 Dehydrator or hair dryer  
 Programmable kiln

**Step 1.** Draw or trace your design on paper. Place all the details on this drawing.



**Step 2.** Trace your design onto a clear plastic sheet with a thin line marker. For the clear plastic sheet: Plaid Gallery Glass-Leading Blanks work well. They can be purchased from a craft supply store in the stained glass supply section.

**Step 3.** Cut the seahorse apart into pattern pieces. Do not cut out side flipper from body of seahorse. Trace another side flipper onto a piece of plastic and cut to make a separate pattern piece



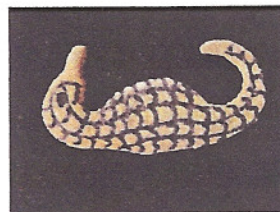
**Step 4.** Use one tsp. of cork clay; roll it into a snake, tapering at both ends. Leave the center much thicker.

**Step 5.** Mold the clay using the seahorse body pattern as a guide. Cut excess clay from edges with a knife or scissors. This is a molding process. Shape and cut as you go. Leave the center higher to support the syringe work.



**Step 6.** Check the "fit" of the pattern to the cork clay body. Align the fins along the body of cork clay to be sure they fit correctly. Trim the cork as needed. Allow to dry overnight.

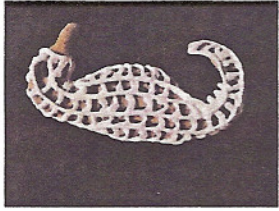
**Step 7.** Draw lines with a thin line marker to use as a guideline for your syringe work. The mouth will be brushed on later with paste.



**Step 8.** With syringe using the tip cut to approximately 18 gauge, begin to pipe in vertical lines. Then add the horizontal lines (looped scales) using a damp brush to help straighten and attach lines as you go. For syringe work: lightly touch tip to surface to attach. Lift tip slightly off surface, allowing lines to drop from syringe. Use even pressure. Lines will be rounder and you will have more control of their placement.

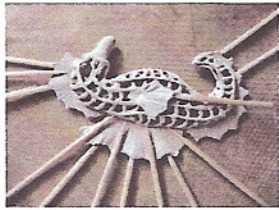
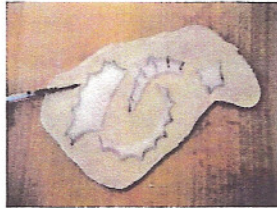


## “Swimming in Silver” continued



**Step 9.** Add another layer of vertical stripes on top of the first layer, outlining eyes as you go. A stone can be placed in the wet clay now. It will not be secure. Later a line of syringe will be used to secure the stone and create definition around the eye area. Allow to dry.

**Step 10.** Roll 16-20 grams of clay 3 cards thick (.75mm.) Cut out fins with a needle tool and texture. Texture plates from Art Clay World-Fan shapes make great fin textures. Attach fins to body with paste or a thin line of syringe (remember the side fin). Clean up extra paste with a damp brush as you go.



**Step 11.** After attaching the fins to the body, use toothpicks to make the fins wavy. Use the syringe to pipe around the eye area, encompassing the stone's edge to secure it in place and add definition to the eye. Brush mouth with 8 layers of paste forming the “bill.” Allow paste to dry between layers.

**Step 12.** With syringe, outline the front of the seahorse where the fins meet the body to secure the fins in place. Cover the side fin with paste, sprinkle fine silver granules on the fin, and gently press into place. Allow to dry.

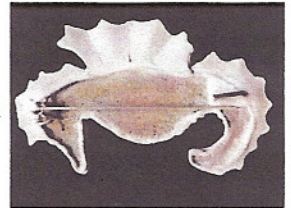


**Step 13.** When dry, turn the seahorse over and outline the entire outside of the body. Pay close attention to the area where the fins are joined to the body and continue around the entire outside of the seahorse. This will secure all the syringe work, fins, and “frame” to the body. Use a damp brush to push lines into place and fill where necessary.



**Step 14.** With the syringe, work from the edges to make a secure platform for the pin back pieces (remember the clay area will be hollow after firing). Apply pin back pieces with paste or syringe. Use a damp brush to clean up pin back and add syringe where needed to secure pin back. Allow to dry.

**Step 15.** Check to see that pin matches the pin back. Keep in mind that the syringe will shrink in the kiln. Place the pin so that the pivot of the pin is centered, but the pointed tip of the pin is only 1/3 of the way into the pin catch. This ensures a good fit after the clay is fired and has shrunk.



**Step 16.** When piece is completely dry, refine as needed. Be sure to clean the surface of the gemstone. Remove any extra clay on the back of the pin that would be unwanted metal after firing. You can use baby wipes or unscented hand wipes as “wet sandpaper” on bone dry clay. Use a light touch, work carefully. This will smooth imperfections in dried clay and clean up unwanted clay from stones, etc. It leaves a nice, smooth finish.

**Step 17.** Fire the piece. When using cork clay, I set my first ramp speed to 800F and hold for 10 minutes. I set the 2nd ramp temperature to 1200F and hold for 30 minutes. This allows time for the cork clay to burn out, leaving the syringe work intact.

**Step 18.** Brush the piece with a stainless-steel brush, and tumble if desired.

**Step 19.** Add pin to back with pliers. Your seahorse is ready to go with you on your lapel, scarf, beach bag, or purse!

Like this project? Contact the artist!

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