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Extruder Canes

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com



For those who saw the last newsletter, you were instructed to sign up with your name and address on a google form if you wanted Kim to mail you some custom extruder discs. If you didn't do that, you'll still be able to participate, but with a different shape of your choice, probably a square. If you decide in the future you'd like the discs, [email Kim Day](#) with your name, address, and indicate in the email that you'd like the extruder discs.

Here's the other things to have available if you want to clay along:

- Pasta machine,
- Clay - something that contrasts with your blends, black is always a safe bet, or black and white,
- Clay blade,
- One or two flat sheets of skinner blends,
- Makins or Fake Makins clay or fondant extruder, and
- Optional - a circle cutter slightly smaller than the barrel of the clay extruder.

Review

Photos, tutorials, etc of events we've finished

Petal & Leaf Canes

By Kim Day

Dawn ended up not being available last month (hope your hand is better), we will probably have her flower cane as the subject of a future program. Instead, I decided to see how many petal and leaf canes we could cram into one program, with the intention that people could use these canes on the clay sugar skulls or wreaths in October. The goal here was to reduce the size of canes you normally make, so you can make a larger variety in a shorter amount of time. Sometimes the only difference between a leaf and a petal cane are the colors you choose.

As requested, here are instructions with step by steps for each of the canes.



Petal 1: Fireflower cane

There already awesome pics of this online at [ollivine z creations](http://ollivinezcreations.com).

Notice you can leave the petal cane as is, or double it up and reshape to make thinner stripes, as shows in the above cane pictures.

Petal 2: Skinner blend stripes

Step 1: Cut a small strip (1 inch? Up to you) from a skinner blend. Put it through pasta machine at a small setting to lengthen the blend.



Step 2: Roll up your skinner blend, you can choose light or dark in the center, I usually do light.

Step 3: Squeeze the air out/reduce slightly starting from the middle and working toward each end. You can reduce here too.

Step 4: Squish the end of the blend to help run it through the pasta machine to flatten it out



Step 5: Cut off the uneven ends, and cut the strip into even pieces, then stack them.



Step 6: Pinch the tops and the bottoms together into a point. You may now choose your petal shape; can leave as points, or round an end off. When building your flower you can have the rounded end out or in. Pointed end in leaves less room for a center.



Petal 3: Alternating skinner blend stripes, optional dots

Step 1: Repeat Petal 2 steps 1-4

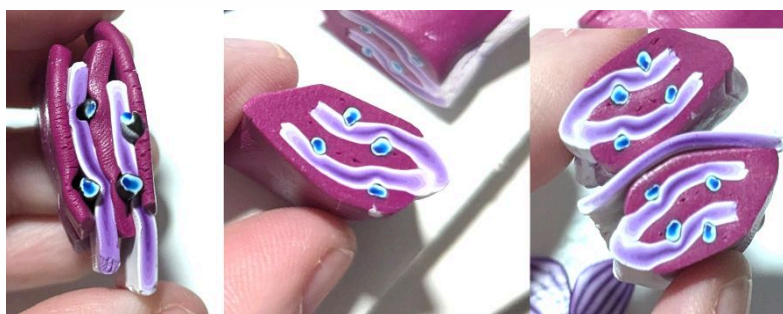
In the program, I used two skinner blends. For these step by step pics I used one blend and one solid color. I also decided to add dots of a white to blue blend outlined in black, as opposed to the black strips that got swallowed up in the program cane, and used fewer strips.

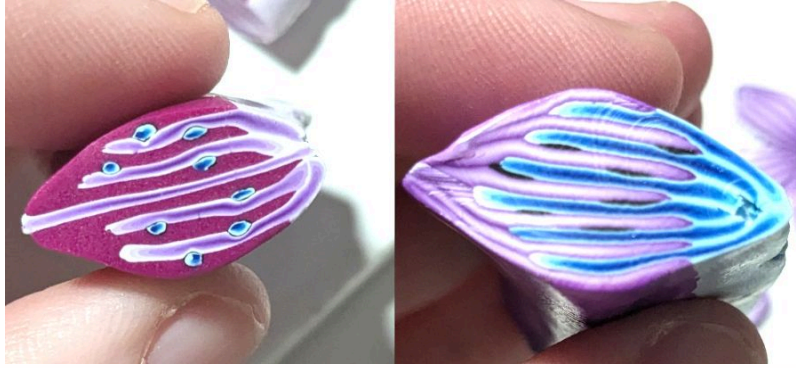


Step 2: Reduce the dot size cane to the diameter of a skewer. Use that skewer to press in on both sides where you want to fit the dot. I first assembled the roller blends, and make a mark on each where the dot would go.



Step 3: Add dots where you want them, repeating step 2. I saved one purple stripe, and used it to put two halves of the petal into one big one.





Leaf 1: Light to dark half plus dark to light half

Step 1: Repeat Petal 2 step 1. Instead of rolling the blend up, cut and stack the pieces.



Step 2: Cut this stacked blend (also known as a skinner blend plug) in half so you have light to dark and light to dark even halves.



Step 3: If you don't want leaf veins, go ahead and squeeze the tops together and the bottoms together, then round the bottom to make a leaf shape.

Step 4: With veins, I first form each half into a half round circle, then cut the cane apart where you want the veins to go. Lay the pieces on your vein color and cut around them, then reassemble.



Step 5: Shape the leaf. Reduce to desired size



Leaf 2: skinner blend stripes plus a cut and a vein

Easiest leaf cane ever.

Step 1: Repeat petal 2 steps 1-5.

Step 2: Cut your stack at a slightly offset diagonal. Insert center vein only to the last stripe. Pinch tops together, shape the cane.





Leaf 3: several sizes skinner blend strips then assembled

Step 1: Repeat petal 2 steps 1-3.

Step 2: Cut into a large, medium and small piece.

Step 3: Reduce the two smaller pieces into same length as large piece. Run all of them through the pasta machine.



Step 4: Cut all pieces into even length pieces, assemble the pieces starting with the large ones. Each piece rests on the piece before it at a 90 degree angle.



Step 5: Squish into leaf shape



Show & Tell

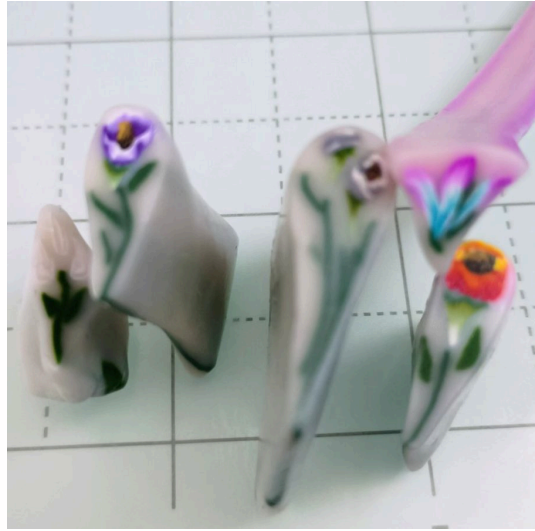
Show off what you're working on, new supplies, books or whatever!



by Cathy Gilbert



by Dawn Gray

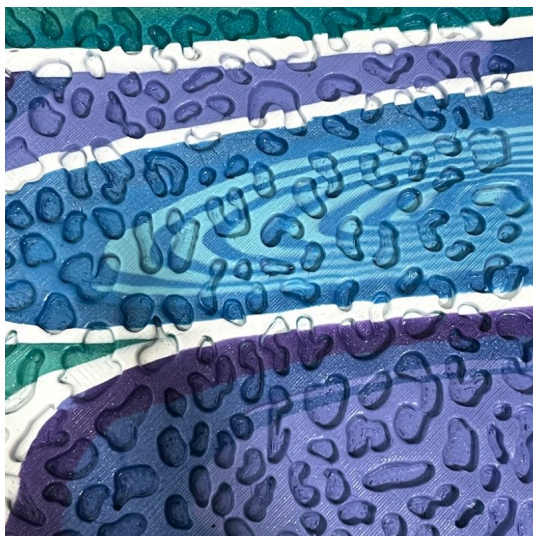


by Esther Schmidt



by Gil Ledesma





by Joy Coleman





by Kim Day



by Liz White





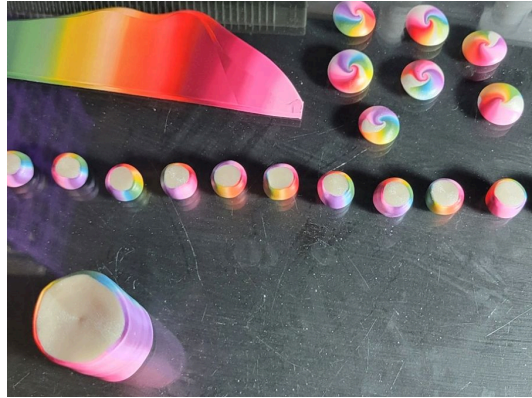
by LuAnn Fino





by Maria Brown





by Sharon Mhyre

Feature

Reviews, haikus, and other special stuff

September Haiku

By Maria Brown

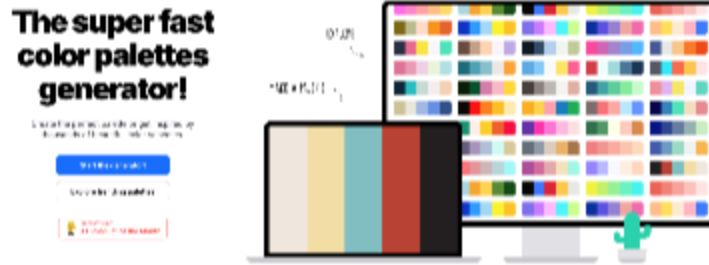
I hid a twenty

In your messy studio

Clean up! You'll find it.

Maria's Five Best Apps for Choosing Color Schemes in 2024

adapted from Daniel Schwartz by Maria Brown



If your brain is ever stuck and not able to imagine the perfect color scheme for your next project, give your mind a break and try a few of these- you'll happily be down a rabbit hole! [Click here to read the whole article.](#)

Announcements

Guild Public Directory



The NWPCG website has a new 'Member Directory' page. If you want to advertise your website, Etsy shop, Instagram, blog, etc. please [email Maria Brown with your information at tech@nwpcg.org](mailto:tech@nwpcg.org).

Remember, this information will be on a public page that anyone can access so don't include your personal address, email address, or phone number. Provide only things you want to be public. Thanks!

Party & Potluck



In place of the October All Day Clay Day, we are having an in-person party instead. The theme this year (last year was mini walnut clay scenes, and six years of mini gingerbread houses before that) is polymer clay sugar skulls or polymer clay wreaths.

We will have clay skulls available in both earring and ornament sizes. There will be a variety of cutters available for the wreaths, including bow cutters. If you have a different vision in mind, feel free

to bring what you need to work on it. Each person will also get a 3D printed set of mini flowers and leaf cutters.

Party Details:

What: Party Clay Day at Kim's house, with Guild clay ovens available

When: October 20th from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Kim Day's house - 22419 88th Ave W., Edmonds, WA 98026

To prepare: [RSVP](#) so we know how many tables and chairs we need. Specifically, RSVP on the [Google sheet \(click here or the button below\)](#) by entering your name. The [RSVP spreadsheet](#) is also the potluck sign up where you can say what dish you're bringing, or simply write down a category like "dessert."

When you come to the party, please have an ingredients list of your dish printed out or written legibly so people can know if they can eat the dish given their respective allergies or diet restrictions. If you see anyone list any deadly allergies, like allergy to peanuts which can cause them anaphylactic shock for example, please do not bring any food that contains peanuts, or with any ingredients that can cause allergies mentioned on our sign-up sheet.

What you need to bring:

- Yourself,
- Your ideas,
- Some clay,
- Optional - some petal and leaf canes to share,
- A project to work on if you don't want to do wreaths or sugar skulls.

Hate the party theme? Love the party theme? Want to do it again? Next year's theme is still to be decided. Feel free to give written input or other ideas by text or [email](#). As always, ask questions if anything is unclear. If you're unable to access [Google sheets](#), [email Kim](#) with your RSVP and potluck dish to bring, and she will update the spreadsheet for you.

[Party & Potluck Sign-up](#)

From the President

Totally Floored!

By Kim Day | polymerclay@gmail.com

I'm getting a new floor in my clay room! Although I've known about it for a while, the time scheduled was moved up. I have a week and a half to completely empty the room. While I

made a great start last month, and the floor was almost completely cleared, progress has stalled. I was hoping to be able to organize everything as I was packing it up, but migraines just keep getting in the way. So wish me luck finding things again after I probably haphazardly toss things in boxes within nine days. Or I suppose you could wish me good health so I can actually work on organizing in the coming days.

I've found more things to print for clay! I already could do rollers, cutters, stamps, clay squishers, extruder discs, and now I'm adding stencils. Thanks LuAnn for giving me yet



another thing I need to make! I am going to have a lot of fun with them; currently my brain is trying to figure out a way to do sutton slice with them, and maybe some sets with different layers for different colors. I have a couple of big design projects I want to work on when I get better with fusion 360 too (a probably less-good version of click-a-slice).

After my clay room is back together, I want to get started with making clay reels. I've been saying this for years, but I mean it this time!

Our All Day Clay Day this past Sunday was pretty great. We ended up having both an in-person group at Third Place Books (me, Vern, Liz, Carol, Cathy and LuAnn) plus a Zoom one going at the same time.

Reminders for next year: our next Clay Camp will be Friday, May 30th to Sunday, June 1st, 2025 at Artworks in Edmonds, Washington. Our next Camp swap theme is twinchies, or decorated 2 x 2 inch squares. Try something new or use a favorite or signature technique! There is no limit but lots of inspiration available. Try searching for things like inchies or artist trading cards (ATCs) on Pinterest using polymer clay, or mixed media, or fabric, or paper. So many versions of these exist and they're all wonderful. I suppose even polymer clay trading coins, except we want them square. Your swap items must contain polymer clay.

Enjoy the pre-Autumn weather while it lasts.

Love,

Kim

Forward

NWPCG website

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