

TIPS AND TIDBITS

- To Slice Round Canes: use a copper pipe or PVC pipe; slip the cane in and extend the cane a little beyond the end; run your blade along the straight edge of pipe to cut against. This will give you a straight cut and prevents the bottom of the cane from squishing.
- Use a motor on your pasta machine if you have arthritis or sore hands.
- Change water between grits when sanding.
- Use a plug of scrap clay for a plunger in a cookie cutter.
- Use chopped crayon as clay inclusions, try larger chunks. They melt and leave a great mottled texture and great color. Try the "pearl" crayons, too.
- Use Alphabet pasta to imprint letters onto clay.
- Put corn starch on your thumbs and fingers when pushing clay into molds. To prevent sticking.
- Black and pearl make a really nice "anthracite" effect.
- Easy beveled edges when using cookie cutters: put a sheet of plastic wrap over the sheet of clay and press the cutter through the wrap, and then pull up the wrap.
- Easy glitter finish for smooth clay: smooth clay as much as possible; put a little ultra fine glitter in the palm of your hand; rub and roll the object in it. Bake. Wash with a soapy sponge to get any loose glitter off and seal with a coat of Flecto Varathane.
- Great green recipe - use any green 4:1 or 3:1 with gold.
- Use water to prevent clay sticking to molds, blades, cutters, etc.
- Polymer Clay Denim: Make 4 shades of blue (some lighter, some darker.) Make 2 shades of gray. Making sure to condition all colors. Roll them into snakes and bundle going lengthwise. Do NOT let them twist around each other. Pull out lengthwise and fold over back on itself lengthwise - no twisting! Pull out again; fold over again. Repeat until lines are blended nicely . . . be careful not to blend until one solid color. Flatten and roll through a pasta machine with a piece of denim material to pick up the texture. You will have authentic looking denim.
- Bake beads in cornstarch to avoid distortion and shiny spots.
- Polyfil makes a great support for baking.
- Clay can be stored in any plastic container marked with a "1 thru 5."
- When you use white to lighten a color, always add a speck of the color above it on the color wheel.
- When you use black to darken a color, always add a speck of the color below it on the color wheel.
- Wipes with alcohol are excellent for cleaning brushes used for Transparent Liquid Sculpey.
- Always check the temperature of your oven.
- My friends happily remind me there are no mistakes in clay, just happy (and sometimes not-so-happy) accidents."