

"The first
polymer clay
by an artist...
for artists"

Donna Kato



kato polyclay™

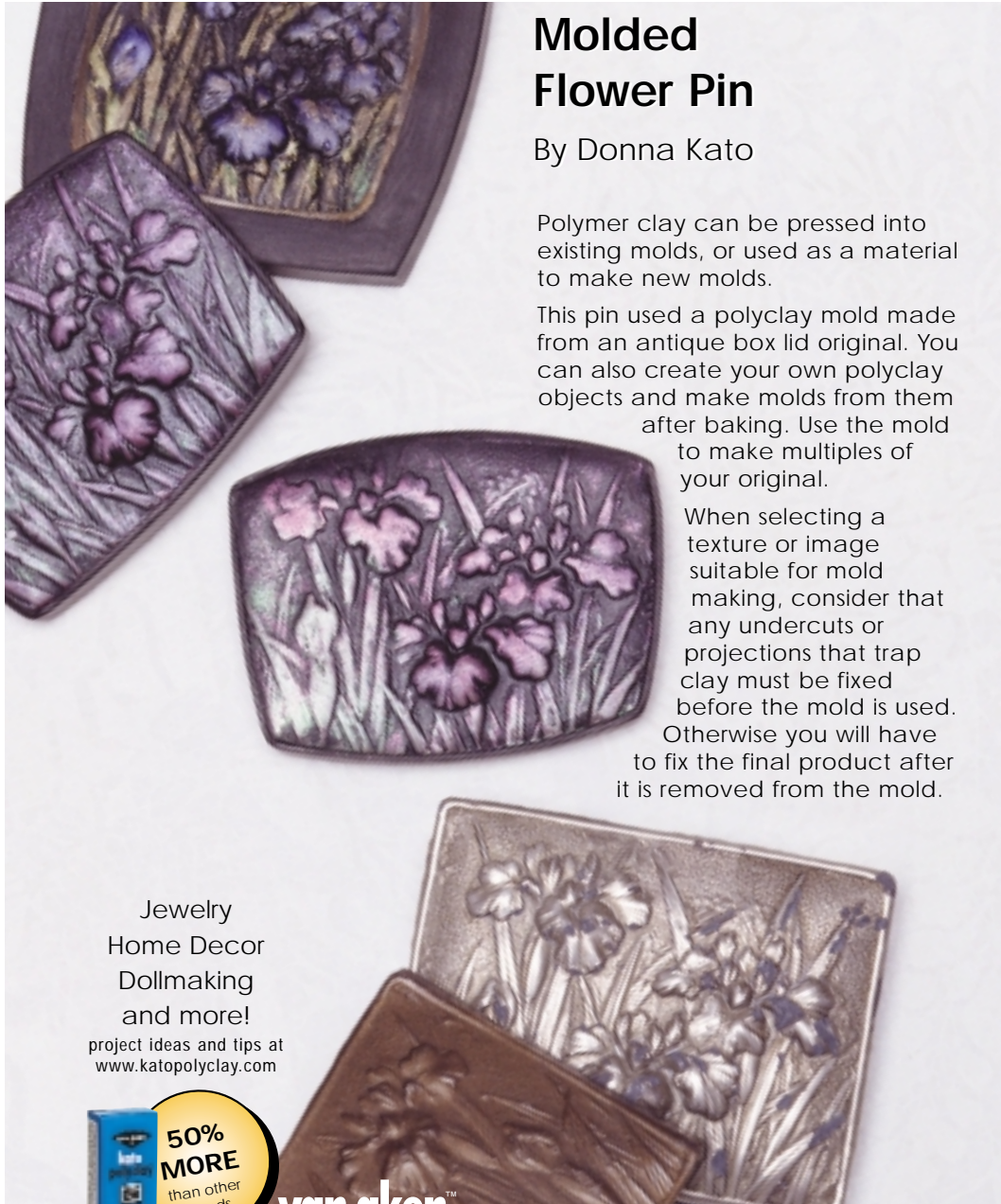
Molded Flower Pin

By Donna Kato

Polymer clay can be pressed into existing molds, or used as a material to make new molds.

This pin used a polyclay mold made from an antique box lid original. You can also create your own polyclay objects and make molds from them after baking. Use the mold to make multiples of your original.

When selecting a texture or image suitable for mold making, consider that any undercuts or projections that trap clay must be fixed before the mold is used. Otherwise you will have to fix the final product after it is removed from the mold.



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van aken™

Full instructions on back...

Molded Flower Pin

1. **Making a mold from polymer clay:** Select the item you wish to reproduce (original). Roll a ball of clay, preferably scrap clay, flatten into a thick rectangle and roll smooth with Kato Clay Roller. The goal is to make mold walls of at least 1/4" thickness. Depending on the size of the original, you may have to try several times to determine the volume of clay needed to make the mold.

2. **Dust original** with cornstarch. Firmly press smooth side of the clay onto the original - the goal is to pick up sharp texture and details. Remove original from clay and inspect the impression. If the impression isn't satisfactory, try again. Nest mold, impression side up in polyester batting, and bake at 275F (135C) for 30 minutes per 1/4" (5mm) thickness. Cool before using.

3. **Using the mold:** Dust impressed area of mold with cornstarch.

4. **Roll a ball of Black** clay and press into mold. If the back is concave, fill with clay to even back out. If you've overfilled a mold, slice excess away with Kato Nublade. Remove clay gently from mold and inspect the reproduction. If satisfied, trim sides or free cut shape with Nublade. If not, try the procedure again.

5. **Using fingers,** dust the raised areas of the clay reproduction with mica pigment powder. You may also mix pigment into Kato Polyclay Clear Medium and apply by brush.

Bake at 275F (135C) for 30 minutes - this will help secure loose mica powder to clay.

6. **Once the piece is cool,** dry sand the sides and back of pin until smooth.

7. **Framing the Pin:** Roll a medium thin sheet of Black. Place the baked pin on the sheet and cut around, following the pin outline. Roll a thin sheet of Black. Cut a strip wide enough to cover the side edges and long enough to wrap completely around. Wrap the edge of the pin with the strip. Trim excess clay from both the front and back of the pin.

8. **Securing and covering the pin back finding:** From a thin sheet of Black, cut out a piece the same length as the pin back bar and twice the width. Place opened pin back on back side of pin. Center, then press cut clay over the pin back bar and onto the raw clay back. If pin is heavy, position pin back close to top edge of piece.

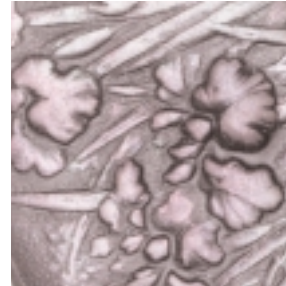
9. **Bake the pin** face side down on a piece of polyester batting at 275F (135C) for 30 minutes.

Note: Perfect Pearls brand powders stick very well to Kato Polyclay but other brands may require sealing with water based glaze.

My original was very flat and of low relief. To make molds from deeper originals, you may find it easier to press a ball of clay over the original, rather than flattening the ball as in step 1.

Materials:

- Kato Polyclay™ (3 oz. pkg.): Black #12311
- Optional: Kato Polyclay Clear Medium
- Kato Nublade™
- Kato Clay Roller™
- An original from which a mold will be made
- Cornstarch and brush
- Polyester batting
- Pigment Powders - I've used Ranger Industries Kiwi, Blush and Forever Violet
- Pin back



Pin detail

- Into your scrap clay try mixing Copper or Gold, the addition of a bit of these colors yields a rich, earthy color.
- In addition to cornstarch, water, ArmorAll and talcum powder all function as release agents. When applied, they will prevent clay from sticking to molds, rubber stamps, etc.
- Test the pigment colors on your clay before using on your actual piece - the colors in the jars frequently do not look the same when applied to different clay colors.

See katopolyclay.com for more helpful hints

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