

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

Donna Kato



kato polyclay™

Spring Flowers

By Donna Kato



One of the techniques popular among polymer clay enthusiasts is known as *Millefiori*. Its roots lie in ancient glass making traditions and you'll find polymer clay perfectly adaptable to cane construction. Canes are images contained within cylinders or loaves. When pressure, rolling and gentle stretching is applied to the cane perimeter, the size of the internal image is reduced. Completed and reduced canes are used in a variety of ways, most commonly sliced thinly to transfer their complex patterns to beads, picture frames, pens, votive candleholders and more.

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project ideas and tips at
www.katopolyclay.com



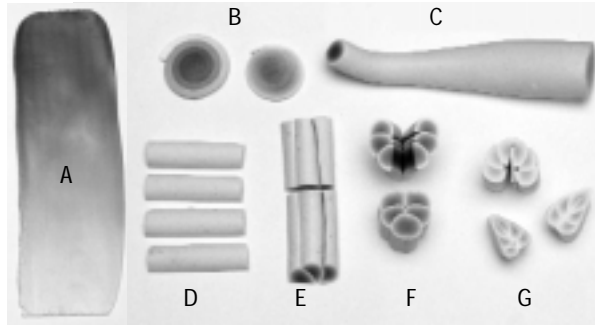
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Full instructions on back...

Spring Flowers

See detailed Skinner blend instructions on katopolyclay.com



1. **Shaded Bullseye:** make a Skinner Blend sheet (A) using 1/2 package each of White and Magenta. The bullseye can be made either fine or coarse depending on how thin you make the Skinner blend sheet (B). Roll-up blended sheet from the Magenta end to make a cane (C).

2. Trim the ends of the cane and reduce by rolling to a diameter of approximately 1/4". Trim ends, Cut into two equal pieces, then slice each of these in half lengthwise to yield 4 semi-circular shapes (D).

3. **Flower cane:** Put one semi-circular piece flat side down on your work surface, overlap and press a second piece against the first, and repeat with a third (E).

4. Cut this bundle into two equal lengths and press the halves together to make a complete flower cane. (F)

5. **Leaf cane** is made the same way as the flower. Mix the lime green color by adding small bits of Green to Yellow. make a Skinner blend from Green to White then follow steps 1-3. When you assemble the two halves (step 4), insert a thin sheet of White to make the central vein, before pressing halves together. (G)

6. **Jellyroll Cane:** Through thickest setting of pasta machine, roll sheets of both Black and White. Place one sheet atop the other and trim four sides. Roll through thickest setting of pasta machine. Reset machine to a thinner setting and roll through again. Fold in half, expelling any air pockets between layers and trimming open edge. From the fold, roll up tightly, trim ends.

Using Your Cans

Beads: Roll and shape clay for base bead. Cut thin slices from the leaf cane. Apply one slice, then smooth by rolling with Kato Clay Roller or knitting needle. Continue applying leaves then flower slices. Optional: add slices from Jellyroll cane. Roll small Black balls of clay, press to flower centers, roll till smooth. Bead hole: pierce from one side to other using needle tool and a drilling motion. Flip the bead over and enter hole from the opposite side, neatly finishing hole.

Pendant: Roll medium thick sheet of base color clay. Add slices following bead procedure above. Roll a thick sheet of Black sheet, forcing out air pockets between. Free-cut pendant shape by cutting through both sheets. Roll a thin sheet of Black and cut a strip long enough to wrap around and wide enough to cover sides of pendant. Line up edge of strip with front of pendant. Wrap and trim strip ends. Flip pendant over and cut away any excess clay. Using fingers or roller, blend clay from sides to bottom clay. Using bamboo skewer, drill two receptacle holes from top edge approximately 1/4" into clay. Roll two small Black balls, drop one in each hole and drill through again. After baking, glue Buna cord ends into these holes using Super Glue type adhesive.

Pansy Variation: Begin with three Skinner blend bullseyes; Yellow center to White, Violet to Lavender, and White to Violet.

Curing clay: Kato Polyclay cures at 275 F (135 C) for 30 minutes per 1/4" (5 mm) of thickness.

Materials:

- Kato Polyclay™ (3 oz. pkg.):
 - White #12309 (2 pkgs.)
 - Magenta #12304
 - Yellow #12301
 - Green #12308
 - Black #12311
- Kato Nublade™
- Kato Clay Roller™
- Pasta machine
- Needle tool or bamboo skewer
- Cyanoacrylate glue (Super Glue type)

- When constructing a cane, don't forget to check both ends of the cane to ensure proper registration.
- This project features a basic two part Skinner Blend but blends of more than two colors can be made. Instructions appear at www.katopolyclay.com.
- To avoid the appearance of flat, shiny spots in beads, bake them nested in polyester batting.
- Polymer clay base beads must be free of internal air pockets.
- If you are making very large beads, begin by making an aluminum foil armature (crush and compress foil), then cover with clay.
- Large Kato Polyclay canes should be reduced as soon as they are assembled. Do not reduce entire cane to the smallest diameter, rather, reduce cane into several diameters (large, medium, small). These may be reduced further later.

See katopolyclay.com for more helpful hints

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