

1507-2

Julie Picarello makes polymer clay art beads with graphic designs.

Watch the video for this project online at:
<http://youtu.be/Lwcr8u-Hn-w>

For More Information Visit:



Please see the next page for project instructions.

For more information about Julie visit www.yhdesigns.com

Guest:



Julie Picarello

Lazy River Art Bead

Make your own imprint tool to create a uniquely patterned and dimensional art bead



Mix four contrasting colors of clay layer them in a stack:

- 1) Color #1=1 part Alizarin and 3 parts Gold; Color #2=1 part Ecru and 1 part Pearl; Color #3=Antique Gold, Color #4 = 1 part Navy and 1 part Cobalt
- 2) Completely mix the colors and roll out on the thickest setting of the pasta machine. Trim each color so it is 2 inches wide and 3 inches long. Stack two contrasting colors together and roll through the pasta machine on the thickest setting. Do the same with the other two colors.
- 3) Place one strip on top of the other cut in half lengthwise. Continue cutting and stacking until a layered pad is built up that contains each color repeated four times.
- 4) The finished pad will be approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch tall.

Create the Lazy River tool and imprint the layered stack:



- 1) Bend an aluminum bracelet blank around a mandrel to form a wavy shape.
- 2) Brayer the layered stack to the work surface, and press the lazy river tool through the stack from top to bottom. Continue adding to the design with other tools such as metal tubes, knitting needles, pins, etc.
- 3) Use a tissue blade to take $\frac{1}{16}$ " horizontal slices off the imprinted stack as evenly as possible. Each of these slices will in turn be formed into an individual bead.

Create a textured base layer for the bead:

- 1) Roll out a layer of clay on the thickest setting of the pasta machine and set down on the work surface. Use your hand to roll a threaded rod across the clay, forming even lines. Optionally, rotate the clay 90 degrees and roll the rod again to form a grid of squares.
- 2) Use metallic powder or acrylic paint to highlight the lines or squares. If using paint, let dry completely.
- 3) Pick up one of the slices, and it should naturally open along the "river", but if not, it can be folded gently to try and open into two pieces. The pieces can then be placed as desired over the textured and highlighted clay to create a narrow or wide opening.
- 4) Brayer the layers of clay together, and add more clay to the back of the bead if needed to build up thickness.
- 5) Trim the bead shape with a cutter or freehand with the tissue blade.
- 6) Optionally, use a bead piercing pin to create a guide hole for stringing the bead before baking it at 275 degrees for 30 minutes. The cured bead can also be drilled after it has cooled if preferred.
- 7) Sand with wet/dry sandpaper in 400/600/800/1000 grits and buff with a soft cotton cloth.



SUPPLY LIST:

- 1 oz. each of Premo! polymer clay in the following colors:
Gold, Antique Gold, Alizarin, Cobalt, Navy, Ecru, Pearl
- Metallic Gold Pulver

TOOLS:

- Pasta Machine
- Round Mandrel/Tube
- Brayer
- Tissue Blade
- Water Spritzer
- Threaded Rod (from hardware store)
- Aluminum Bracelet Blank
- Imprinting tools: circle & square metal tubes, screwdriver tips, knitting needle or bead-piercing pin