

1510-5

Julie Picarello makes pearl mica shift flowers from polymer clay.

For More Information Visit:



Mica Button Flowers

Use the mica particles in pearlized clay to create simple patterns with great impact



Create the petals and base of the flower:

1) Begin with two of the lovely pearl colors and mix with additional pearl to make them brighter and even more luminous. Color#1=1 part Peacock Pearl with 4 parts pearl. Color#2= 1 part Green Pearl with 4 parts Pearl. Completely mix the colors and roll out on the thickest setting of the pasta machine.

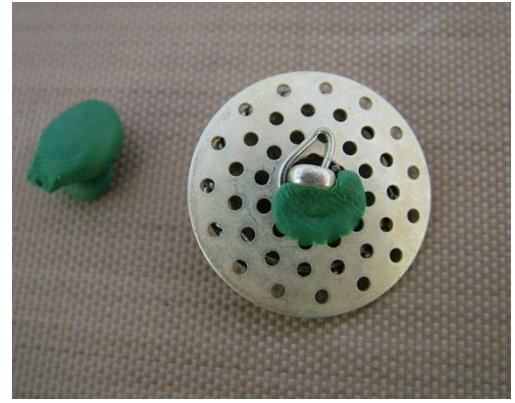
2) Stack four strips of one color to create a pad of clay approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick and do the same with the second color.

3) Brayer one of the stacks to the work surface, and push circular cutters or metal tubes of different sizes into the stack to imprint a random pattern of intertwined circles.

4) Use a very sharp tissue blade to slice horizontally through the imprinted stack, keeping the slices as even as

possible.

- 5) Back the slices with additional clay to build them up to approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ " , or the thickest setting of the pasta machine.
- 6) Use a small petal-shaped cutter to punch out three petals of each color.
- 7) Roll out a small amount of clay on a medium thin setting and punch out a circle with a cutter, then arrange the six petals with their tips over the circle. Press down gently on the tips of the petals so they adhere with the clay circle below, and bake this piece at 275 degrees for 20 minutes. Remove from oven and gently sand and buff.



Add the bail and centerpiece of the flower:

- 8) Because raw clay is being attached to cured clay, use a brush or toothpick to apply a small amount of TLS to the center of the cured base.
- 9) Roll a small ball of clay, and press it down over the TLS so that a solid connection is made as the raw clay spreads into the gaps between the petals.
- 10) For the bail, wrap a loop on one end of a 16 gauge wire large enough for cord, chain, etc. Form an eye pin on the other end and then hammer the wire if desired for a textured look.
- 11) Set the bail so the eye pin is centered on the raw clay over the cured base, and press down to form an indentation. Roll a small ball of clay and press it firmly over the eye pin.
- 12) The button centerpiece can now be added. Stack the button and punched metal disc together so the shank extends through the hole in the disc. Thread a small piece of wire through the shank and bend it so it holds the button in place. Press clay over the wire and shank until it is completely covered.
- 13) Firmly press the button into the cured base, making sure that the shank fits inside the bail eye pin and is embedded firmly in the clay. This clay to clay connection will ensure that the button centerpiece is securely attached.
- 14) Bake the piece at 275 degrees for 20 minutes.

Finish the back of the flower:

- 15) Roll out a small amount of clay on a medium thin setting and punch out a circle with a cutter. This circle should be slightly larger than the one used in step #7, and it can be textured if desired.
- 16) Spread a thin layer of TLS over the circle on the back of the flower, and then set the larger circle over it. Gently but firmly press down on the circle to ensure there is a connection to each petal, as this will give additional strength to the piece.
- 17) One last time, bake at 275 degrees for 20 minutes, then sand and buff as desired.

SUPPLY LIST:

- Premo! polymer clay in the following colors:
Peacock Pearl (0.5 oz), Green Pearl (0.5 oz.), Pearl (3 oz.)
- Liquid Clay (TLS)
- Vintage button
- 1 inch 24 gauge craft wire
- 2-3 inches 16 gauge wire (for bail)
- Precut metal discs (or) metal sheet

TOOLS:

- Pasta Machine
- Petal-shaped cutter
- Brayer
- Tissue Blade
- Water Spritzer
- Imprinting tools: circle cutters in varying sizes

- Circle Disc Cutter (optional if cutting your own metal discs)
- Dapping Block (optional if doming your own metal discs)
- Steel Bench & Pad & Hammer (optional if a hammered look is desired on the wire bail)
- Wet/Dry Sandpaper in 400/600/800/1000 grits
- Pliers

For more information about Julie visit www.yhdesigns.com

Guest:



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