

POLYMER WEEK

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13

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT

by Lynn Yuhr

For this project, you'll be playing with tints and shades of jewel-tone colors to create a festive ornament or pendant for the holidays. "The center cutout offers a window to highlight a bit of sparkle using metallic color pigments," explains Lynn Yuhr. Feel free to get creative and use your favorite colors along the way.

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TOOLS & SUPPLIES

POLYMER CLAY

- Premo: purple, white, fuchsia, burnt orange
- liquid clay

MATERIALS

- gold color pigment
- 50 mm of 1 mm wire
- coordinating ribbon

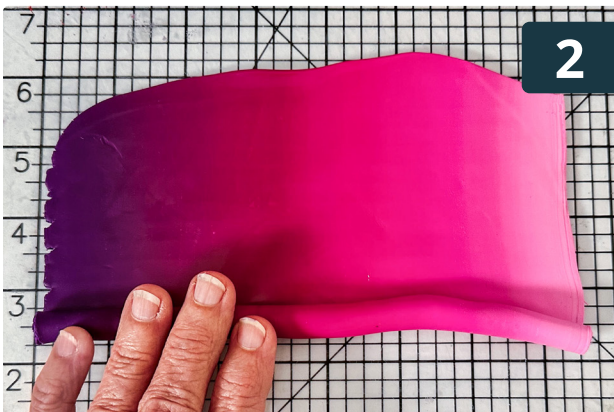
TOOLS

- circle cutters: 6.5 cm, 4.5 cm, 3.5 cm
- large domed metal bowl
- flat smooth tile for baking
- craft knife
- 5 mm ball stylus
- sanding paper or sponges
- flat-nose jewelry pliers
- cosmetic brush



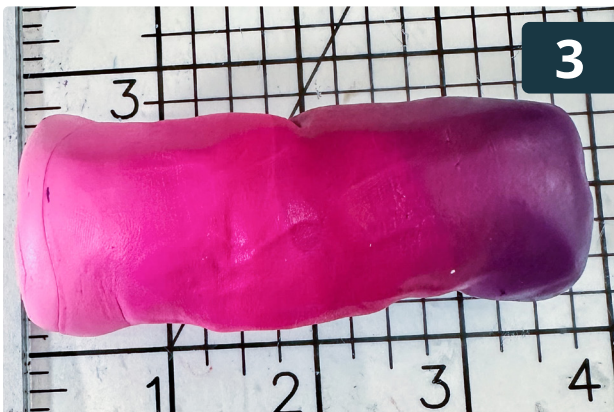
1

Create a color blend using fuchsia as the main color, with purple and white to create dark and light sides. Run it through your pasta machine at full width and thickest setting until almost blended.



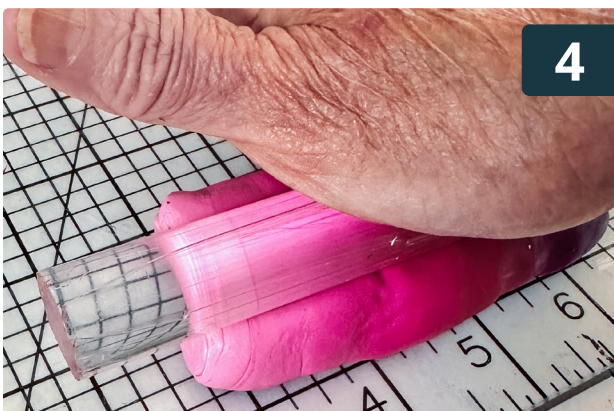
2

Roll the blend up from the bottom to reduce its width.



3

Press the rolled clay on both ends to shorten it to about 8 cm. It will look messy, and that's fine.



4

Flatten the chunk so it can go back into the pasta machine, to continue blending, while staying narrow.

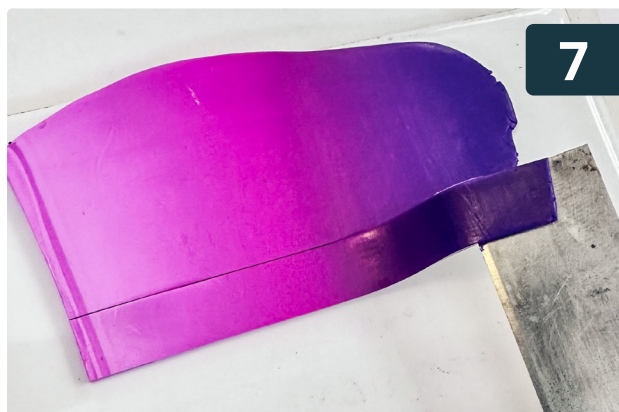
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Run it through the machine continuing to fully blend. Reduce the sheet to a medium thickness.



Prepare part of your blend and a coordinating color (burnt orange here). Sheet both to the same medium thickness (3 or 4 on an Atlas).

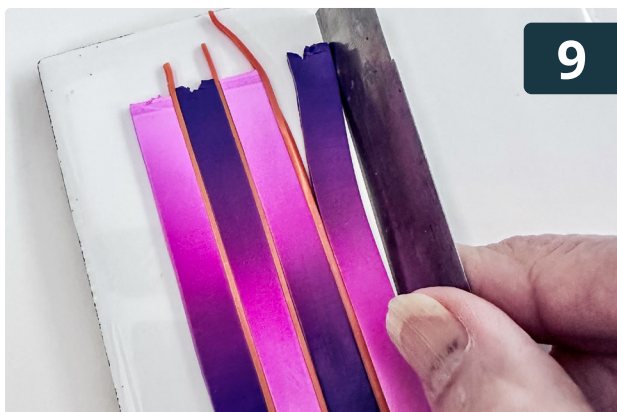


Cut 8 mm strips of the blend and place them on your tile.



Cut 1 mm strips of the coordinating color and place them next to the blend strips.

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9

Alternate the direction of the blend strips (dark to light, then light to dark) as you build the veneer.



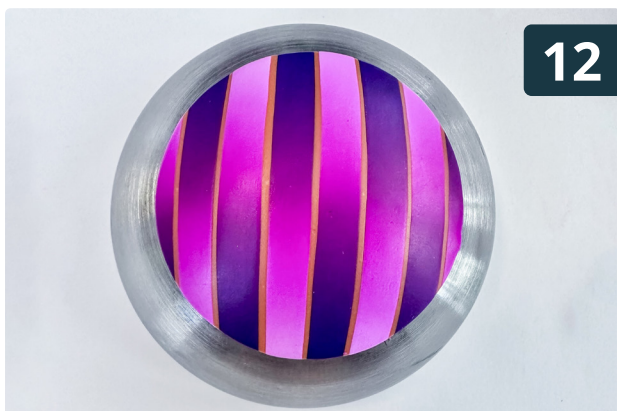
10

Burnish the veneer with paper and your fingertips, sealing all seams.



11

Cut a 6.5 cm circle from the veneer, centering the color pattern.



12

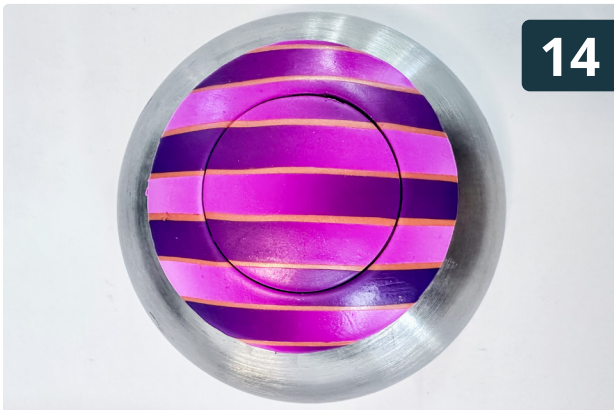
Place it on the bottom of the largest metal doming bowl and bake for 30 minutes at 130°C. This is the back piece.

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13

Create a second veneer, cut another 6.5 cm circle, center it, and prepare it the same way. Cut a window from the center but keep the removed piece for another project.



14

Bake for 30 minutes at 130°C. This becomes the front piece.



15

Sheet the coordinating color on the middle setting and cut a 4.5 cm circle. Dip a 5 mm ball stylus into gold pigment and press into the circle, twisting to embed the pigment. Continue creating a pattern.



16

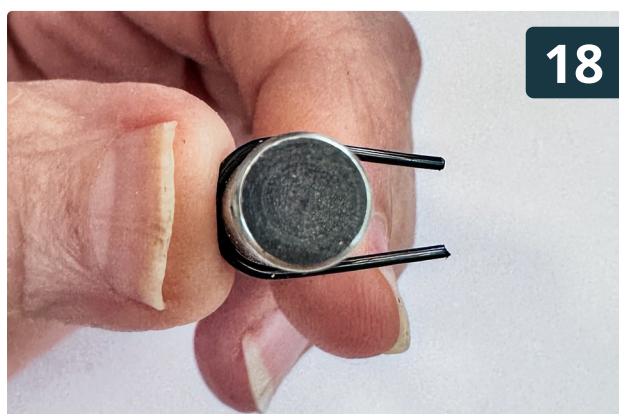
Brush more gold pigment across the surface with a cosmetic brush and remove excess. Bake for 30 minutes at 130°C

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17

Cut a 3.5–4 cm piece of 1 mm wire.



18

Bend the wire over the handle of your craft knife to form a U-shape.



19

Use flat-nose pliers to bend the legs outward slightly. Set aside.



20

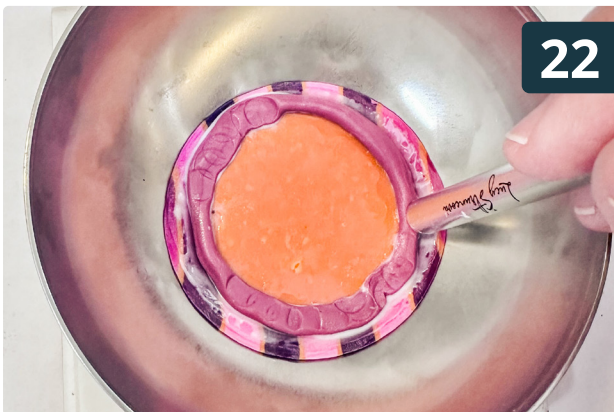
Apply liquid clay around the edge of the gold center piece and around the inside edge of the window circle. Roll a 15 cm snake of scrap clay and flatten it slightly.

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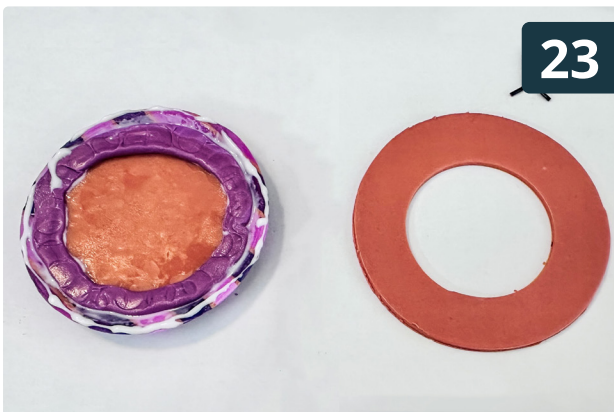
21

Wrap the scrap clay around the gold center piece.



22

Place the center piece face down into the window. Use the doming bowl to hold it steady while pressing the scrap clay down inside the window with the bottom of your craft knife.



23

Sheet the coordinating color again on the middle setting and cut another donut (large circle + center hole).



24

Lift the top edge with a tissue blade and slide the wire bail underneath. Press the clay back down over the bail.

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Place the window piece (front) face up onto the raw donut on the tile.



Trim excess clay carefully, especially around the bail. Using the dull side of the blade helps avoid cutting too much. Bake for 30 minutes at 130°C.



Flip the baked front piece over, remove the bail wire, sand the edge if needed, then replace the bail and secure it with a tiny bit of super glue.

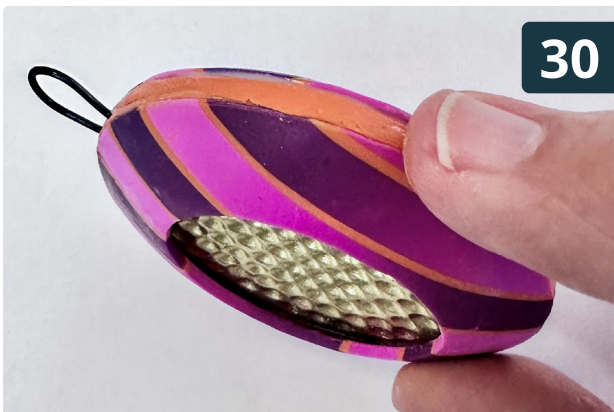


Sheet more coordinating clay and cut another donut. Add liquid clay to the baked front piece and the edge of the domed back piece.

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Lay the raw donut onto the back of the baked front piece.



Press the domed back piece into the raw clay, aligning the stripes with the front piece pattern. Press excess clay into gaps and trim where needed. Smooth the seam. Bake for the final time for 30 minutes at 130°C.



Sand if needed with sanding sponges.



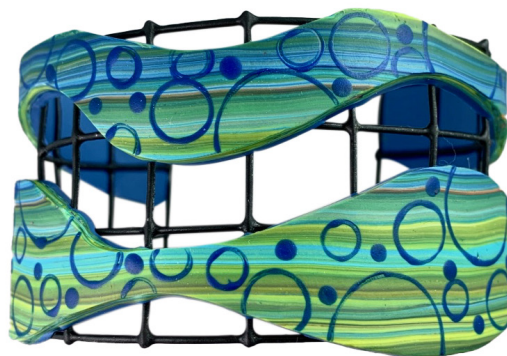
Add a coordinating ribbon to wear as a pendant or hang as an ornament.

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FINAL PROJECT





LYNN YUHR

Lynn is based in Miami, Florida and creates under the name The Flying Squirrel Studio. With a background in geology, she blends her scientific insight with the tactile depth of polymer clay, exploring its possibilities since 2008. She is known for diving into the 100 Day Project, where she explored liquid clay techniques, paired them with wire and hardware-store materials, and developed an inspiring series of innovative surface designs.

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