

Making Polymer Clay Beads

CAROL BLACKBURN

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 and black and white.
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I first started working with polymer clay because I couldn't afford to buy as many African Trading beads as I lusted after. That's one of the beauties of this versatile medium: If you see a bead you like, you can probably recreate it with polymer clay. If you need a bead of a certain size, shape or color and can't find it anywhere, you can make it to your specifications.

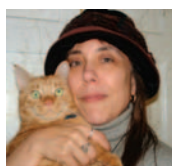
In addition to solidly written chapters on tools and materials, *Making Polymer Clay Beads* is a comprehensive primer on techniques for beginners. Advanced crafters will find it a handy reference work of clay techniques. Crafters who don't typically work with polymer clay will like it too because it shows how to replicate just about every kind of bead you can dream up. This makes it a useful resource for anyone who needs to make the occasional bead to complete a special project.

While *Making Polymer Clay Beads* has recipes to replicate ivory, metal, turquoise, coral and amber, it is not just another faux how-to book. Blackburn shows how to make beads of every imaginable shape, including coils, discs, hearts and squares. If

your pocketbook won't support your dichroic glass bead habit, you can try Blackburn's polymer clay copy cats that employ foils and powders to get a shimmery effect. You will also find tutorials on geometric canes, skinner blends, stamping, inlaying, polymer clay transfers, mica shift and more.

And what do you do with all these beautiful beads? Blackburn gives you complete instructions on stringing materials, findings and assembly. Not sure how to begin? No problem. She includes a chapter on design, and a gallery showing how well known guest artists use their polymer clay beads.

While this book will mostly be of interest to polymer clay artists, bead-ers should check it out, too. If you need to make a special focal bead or spacers, this book will show you how to do it with a minimal outlay for tools and materials. If you are looking for the perfect bead but can't find it anywhere, why not make it yourself?



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