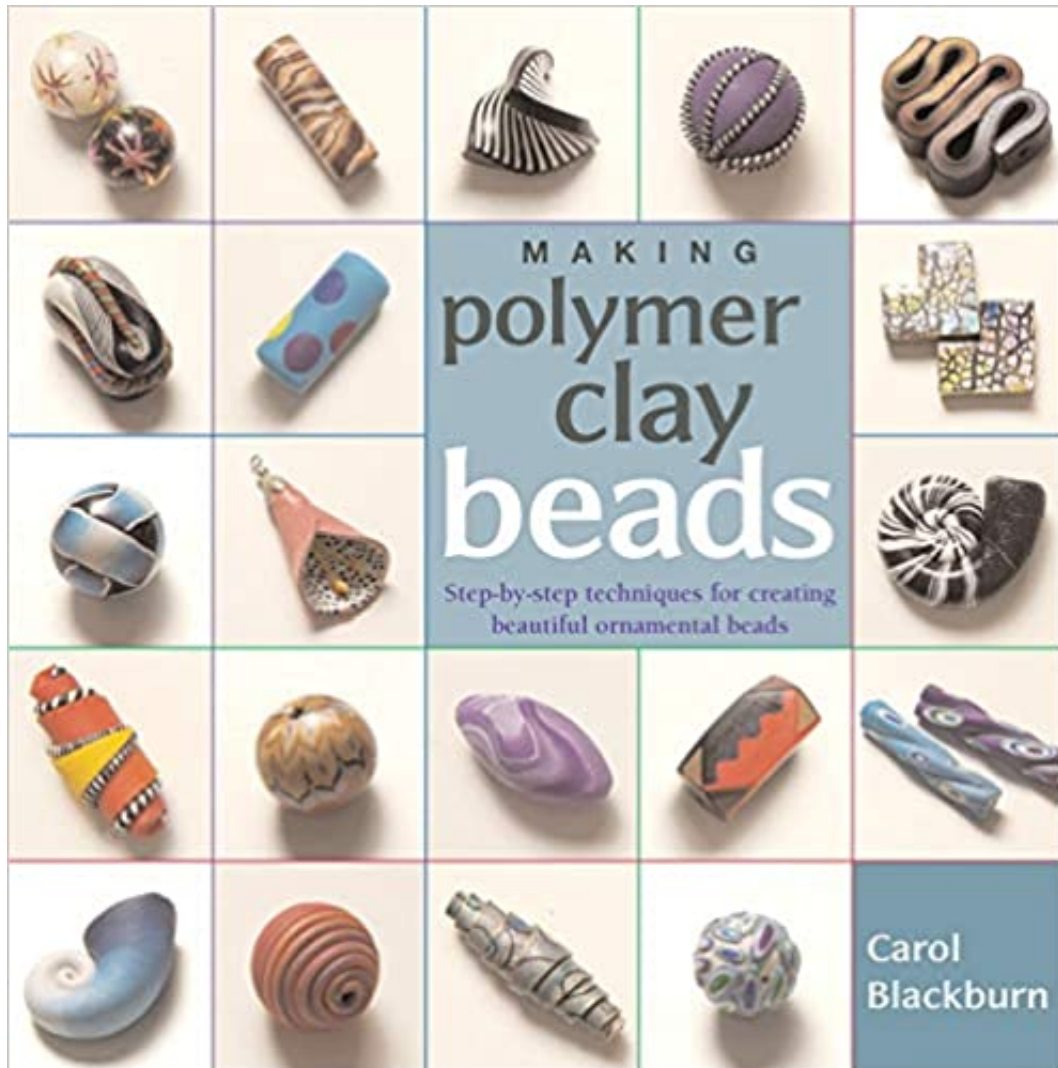


Making Polymer Clay Beads

by

Carol Blackburn



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Synopsis

A comprehensive introduction to the materials, tools, equipment, and techniques used to make unique beads with a variety of shapes, colors, and finishes. The straightforward instructions discuss topics that include conditioning raw clay and making simple shapes; producing more complex shapes, such as rounds, canes, and spirals; decorating the beads with foils, powders, and millefiori; and creating faux effects like ivory, bone, turquoise, marble, and silver. A gallery of beads by internationally renowned artists, hundreds of step-by-step photographs of new beads designed by the author, and a clay gauge that allows one to estimate how much clay is necessary to make a specific quantity of beads are included, making this a comprehensive guide that will provide inspiration, demonstrate the range of effects that can be achieved in polymer clay, and teach readers how to incorporate these beads into jewelry designs.

Sort review

"If you need a 'hit' of polymer clay inspiration, you'll want to take a look at this new book." — Polymer Clay Daily "A fantastic book! It's well written, concise, and beautiful." —Polymer Clay Central.com "This is one of the best books I have seen on the subject of polymer beads." — Upper Midwest Bead Society Newsletter "A stunning gallery of handmade beads that might even cause a non-crafter to rush out and purchase blocks of polymer clay." —Detroit News "This book is a real gift to the polymer clay world." —San Diego Polymer Clay Guild newsletter "This stunning collection of bead possibilities is enough to make one fall in love with the versatility of polymer clay all over again." —Monsters and Critics.com "A concise yet comprehensive reference on this colorful medium." —Art Jewelry magazine "If you've ever thought about trying polymer clay but didn't know where to start, this book is perfect for you." —South Jersey Bead Society
About the Author Carol Blackburn is a designer who works with polymer clay, beads, and tassels. She is a member of the British and American Polymer Clay Guilds.

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The Art of Polymer Clay Millefiori Techniques: Projects and Inspiration for Creative Canework

What people say about this book

CLG, "Detailed steps, clear guidelines/recommendations provide confidence in making your own beautiful polymer beads!. First off - yes, there are LOTS of books available showing all sorts of different projects using polymer clay and no, you won't become an expert overnight with this one or any other one. HOWEVER, Blackburn has provided a book with updated information and the guidelines to get you on your way to make the beads of your dreams - referring to the first section entitled "Materials and Techniques:" especially, blending-Skinner Tech., Combing, Caning, Molding, Shapes, Drilling, Polishing (very important), Varnishing, Foils, Extrusions, Textures, Transfers Stamping, Mokume Gane, Mica Shift and more. Just remember, she and others making beautiful polymer products do this all the time and so practice, practice, practice. That being said, I have to say that I truly enjoy this book as so many others have mentioned - that being the focus on bead making. My own efforts over many months of work were so so at best. Once I followed her steps, which are given with photos & written info for each step, I am much more pleased with my own beads. My main interest in this book has been section two "Faux Techniques" - wood, marble, ivory/bone, leather, amber, coral bronze, abalone, jade, mother-of-pearl (amazing), silver, malachite, turquoise, lapis, onyx, agate. For the most part, I have been extremely pleased at the outcomes of my efforts, but some of Blackburn's representations of imitating certain things could be better. Lapis - get the book "Polymer-The Chameleon Clay" by V. Hughes in order to get a more realistic lapis stone appeal, same as for jade - but this 2nd book is horrible when it comes to Turquoise (also described in Blackburn's book but still not as realistic as I would like...a difficult stone to mimic). So I use the Hughes book for some faux items. Blackburn does have some outstanding examples (IMHO) of Wood (not the ultimate best, but close); Veined Marble - compared to the real thing, I was amazed; Coral bead work was admirable and worth practicing to get it just right; Abalone - love it - very realistic; Jade was comparable to Hughes work; Mother-of-Pearl - truly striking, especially when making the colored pearls; Malachite - close but before YOU make it examine natural malachite in order to develop a more realistic color pattern but still closely following Blackburn in the color production end; Onyx - MY FAVORITE - actually it is more like a natural agate stone as typically when you think of onyx, it is black. Blackburn's Onyx is highly layered using products that I wish I would have thought of...but now I know...in order to get a REALLY natural looking agate stone bead. Blackburn's section on "Agate" in the "Faux Techniques" applies more to a cut stone of agate and she has produced some interesting pendant type pieces. But again, get an Agate book and try to mimic some of the patterns of real agates following Blackburn's technique. You won't be sorry. Sections to use other books or to keep trying to find better ways to mimic these items are: silver, turquoise, lapis, bronze (this could go either way for some of Blackburn's pieces are admirable - same with her amber pieces), ugh on the leather look, and noooo on the ivory and bone beads. Books with more realistic bone are "The Polymer Clay Techniques Book" by S. Heaser - and pay attention to the antiquing section for bone or "Faux Surfaces in Polymer

Clay" by I.S. Dean where the best looking bone look is shown. However, both these books lack the more detailed descriptions and images that Blackburn provides in her book. Yet, Blackburn's work/descriptions are a great way to start from in getting the look you may want using products she recommends. In the 3rd section of the book called "Bringing It All Together" - she does a great job of pulling the necessary items needed to really make the beads - from various jewelry findings, cording, attaching, designing...thus flowing smoothly into the final section "The Gallery." Many of the great polymer bead artists' work is shown here and definitely grab your attention. Yet this section is small as Blackburn focuses upon the other areas mentioned above and thus earning more stars from me as that is the reason I wanted the book...not for the gallery but for the great guidelines and examples to help ME develop my own pieces. With all this being said...or rather written...by me, I guess I have to say there is not just one book for all things in polymer clay. However, I feel the layout, descriptions, images and all around clarity by Blackburn makes her book stand out in my library. I am glad to have the NUMEROUS other books, magazines, etc. on polymer clay plus seeing some of the extraordinary work by many artists focused on this medium - all of which increases my drive to improve my own work with polymer clay...and hopefully your own work as well. This medium is amazing and so available - use Blackburn's book as a great stepping stone and you definitely will not be disappointed."

DF, "So glad I bought it!. Wonderful book! If only there had been a "Look Inside" for it, I would have realized what a treasure it is and snapped it up long ago. As it is, I wasn't particularly attracted by the cover, and since I already had another great book on bead-making, I didn't think of buying this one until someone in the CITY-o-Clay group at Yahoo spoke well of it. It contains an extensive section on faux techniques, including wood, veined marble, leather, jade, silver, turquoise, lapis lazuli, ivory/bone, mother-of-pearl, abalone, bronze, amber, coral (had lots of fun making corall!), and easier ways than I had known up to now for making onyx, agate, and malachite. I especially enjoyed making the coral. There is also a section called "Bringing It All Together" that covers findings and threads, attaching findings, and designing with beads. This book is good even for complete beginners, but also holds inspiration for clayers beyond that stage. Just a few of the headings in the Materials and Techniques section: drilling, sanding, polishing, and varnishing/extrusions/coiled beads/mokume gane/mica shift/molding/color mixing/applique/inlay/transfers/caning/and Natasha beads (called "Rorshach beads" in this book-- which is another great name for them) There are pictures of and directions for many unusual beads and although I had already learned most of the techniques described, I found a lot of useful tips and good ideas throughout the book and keep going back to it to remind myself of them and find more. If I were pressed to point out a fault, that is the lack of help in finding sources for tools, findings, and materials. A few "source" companies are mentioned in the credits at the back, but with no information beyond their URLs. Most books in this field have at least a page or two with the names and addresses/URLs of companies that sell the materials mentioned in the

book, telling which company sells what. There is, however, a 2-page index to the book's contents; and on the last page you will find URLs for some helpful sites such as Glass Attic, Polymer Clay Central, and Polymer Clay Daily. Some of these contain forums, but Glass Attic is a sort of compendium of forum conversations on all aspects of polymer clay use, almost like an encyclopedia. So--no help finding tools and materials--but, ah well, nothing in life is perfect. This book is definitely worth having."

Kathleen V, "Excellent! Great photos and instructions!. Making Polymer Clay Beads

My sons and I actually learned stuff! We'd never worked with polymer clay before but I became fascinated with it from seeing other artists creations online. So I bought this book and tons of clay and tools, and we made beads, figurines, and learned great techniques including Skinner Blend, it actually worked exactly the way the book said, by running 2 colors of clay thru a pasta machine 15 times, then it was blended in the middle, then I rolled it up and cut it and it made the 2 color slices, different on both ends of the roll, exactly like the book said! I'm very happy with this!

Polymer Clay Beads: Techniques, Projects, Inspiration (Lark Jewelry & Beading)

How to Make Polymer Clay Beads: 35 Step-by-step Projects Show How to Make Beautiful Beads and Jewelry

The Art of Polymer Clay Millefiori Techniques: Projects and Inspiration for Creative Canework

Patterns in Polymer: Imprint and Accent Bead Techniques

The Art of Polymer Clay Creative Surface Effects: Techniques and Projects Featuring Transfers, Stamps, Stencils, Inks, Paints, Mediums, and More

Making Jewelry from Polymer Clay

Polymer Clay 101: Master Basic Skills and Techniques Easily through Step-by-Step Instruction

The Polymer Clay Techniques Book

Polymer Clay Color Inspirations: Techniques and Jewelry Projects for Creating Successful Palettes”

chunky cheese, “You probably won't need another polymer clay book.....!. I don't regret purchasing this 2007 american book. All the how to techniques are described really well - these include conditioning; baking; making logs, strings and sheets; colour mixing; blending including the Skinner technique; combing, feathering, and swirling; cutting and slicing; caning and stacking; moulding; bead shapes drilling sandiing polishing and varnishing; extrusions; using foils, powders and glitters; applique; texturing; inlay; rorschach; transfers; rubber stamping; mokume gane; mokume gane and translucent clay; mica shift effect; also faux techniques including wood, veined marble, ivory and bone, leather, amber, coral, abalone, jade, motherof pearl, silver, malachite, turquoise, lapis lazuli, onyx and agate.there is alos a chapter on how to 'bring' it all together. At the end is a gallery of designer products. Pictures are clearly laid out and are clear at each step of the process. Included are short comprehensible descriptions. Really can't wait to try..... It really is possible to make the beads shown on the cover. I also bought 'Polymer Clay - Color Inspirations by Lindly Haunanan and Maggie Maggio reference creating successful palettes. These two are a perfect combination the rest is down to my imagination and technique! Happy playing....”

Bev Wiseman, “The best craft book I have ever bought!. This is a fantastic book. Comprehensive description of tools and materials, a comprehensive range of techniques, easy to follow and well explained projects, from the most simple to more involved. A gallery of designs from the best artists to aspire to. The book is crammed with high quality photographs too.I've ordered several other books on my new hobby but I don't really think I'll be needing them; this one does it all!”

Alleigh, “Something for everyone!. This book is AMAZING! literally everything you need to know from how to make loads of different shaped beads to how to make faux onyx. Mokume gane, inlays & rorschach methods are in here too. Clear pictures & step by step instructions with a lovely gallery section at the end for inspiration. If you're a beginner or worked with it for 10 years, buy this book. I love it.”

mj, “Intro to bead jewellery making. A good introduction to making polymer clay beads. A short introduction to equipment, materials and colour mixing techniques.A good basic cover of a

variety of bead shape and design. A good investment for the novice crafter.”

Mrs L D Worrall, “Great book. A great book very easy to read with lots of useful information”

The book by Carol Blackburn has a rating of 5 out of 4.7. 347 people have provided feedback.

Book Information

Language: English

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Dimensions: 8.75 x 0.32 x 8.75 inches

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