



Thong Choker by Dan Cormier © 2007

Building Better Beads

form and finish in polymer clay
a two-day workshop with Dan Cormier

Sat.Oct.6 & Sun.Oct.7.07
Southern Connecticut Polymer Clay Guild

In this “focus on structure” class, polymer clay artist and innovator Dan Cormier shares several of his original approaches to bead design, fabrication, and finishing. Learn to make your own dies and templates, and discover how Dan’s easy but elegant adaptation of silhouette die-forming puts infinite polymer clay possibilities right at your fingertips. Learn draping, layering, shaping, bezeling, and multiple curing techniques to create your own signature beads and objects. After nearly three years teaching his Cutting Edge system with partner artist Tracy Holmes, Dan is happy to present this workshop that answers the question, “Now what do I do with all these veneers?”. Building Better Beads is a great companion to The Cutting Edge, or any other decorative surface technique (canework, mokume gane, textures, mica shift...).

Why settle for “good enough” when you can make something that’s not only good, but better than ever? Why not strive for the best? Learn ways to improve and refine your craftsmanship, so that first-class works habits become second nature. Expand your repertoire with this info-intense but accessible two-day workshop of techniques and tips for turning flat into form, then finishing with finesse.

materialslist

Here’s a list of everything you’ll need for this workshop. If you have any questions, please contact me. Our e-mail address is hoco@island.net.

Basic Kit

- note pad and pen
- pasta machine with C-clamp
- acrylic roller
- tissue blade
- needle tool
- glass cleaner and paper towels
- a piece of glass, 8" x 10" x 3 ml thick, to use as a work surface

FAQ: Can I use plexiglass, or marble, or...?
Answer: Sure, but we highly recommend glass as a superior all-purpose texture-free non-scratching work surface

Plus...

- a few sheets of letter-size paper
- a few sheets of card stock
- a pencil for drawing (a 2-H is best)
- a fine-tipped permanent felt pen
- X-acto knife with a #11 blade
- self-healing cutting mat
- scotch tape
- double-side scotch tape
- 1 sheet of drywall abrasive screen (I use 120 grit)
- a protective face mask (paper kind)
- small hand drill, with assorted bits

Materials Kit

A Materials Kit will be provided in class, for a cash-only fee of \$5.

Clay

- 2 blocks PREMO, in any pearlized colour of your choice
- 1/2 lb. scrap clay
- 75 grams Sculpey UltraLight (that’s about 1/4 of a package)
- 1 small bottle translucent liquid polymer (like TLS)
- assorted decorative clay swatches, to be used as bead veneers: you don’t need much, 3" x 3" or smaller is fine, approx #5 thickness on an Atlas pasta machine, or 1/16"; canework, mokume gane, Skinner blends, textures, or Cutting Edge veneers... bring something you like
- a small amount of opaque clay for borders and bezels, in colours to complement your veneers



Botanical Pin by Dan Cormier © 2004

Thank You

We sincerely appreciate your interest in this workshop. We look forward to sharing our ideas with you, so that you may be inspired to use them in your own work in your own way. Please respect the great amount of original thought, hard work, and investment that goes into developing new techniques and ways to teach them. The support we receive for our workshops is what allows us to pursue new ideas, as we strive to push ourselves and our medium forward. **This workshop is for you.** We ask that you do not teach classes or give demos that rely on the information you learn from us, or publish or post tutorials that do the same. Thank you.