

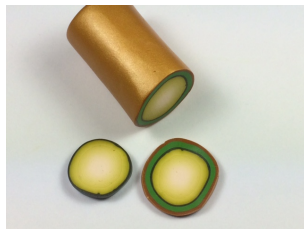
Ron Lehocky's Easy Peasy Falling Block Extruder Cane  
used to make a  
Sparkly Christmas Tree



The origin for this design originated with a skinner blend cane that was amongst the box of scraps from Lindly Haunani. Her color blends are so radiant and enticing. Here is a short and sweet tutorial on how I make the sparkly Christmas tree.



I am using one of Lindly's blends which she wrapped in a dark green color. From that I made a bull's eye cane using a #3 (thick) sheet of a green blend and a thin (#5) sheet of a gold mix. You can make use of your own scraps for this project. See the examples at the end of the tutorial.



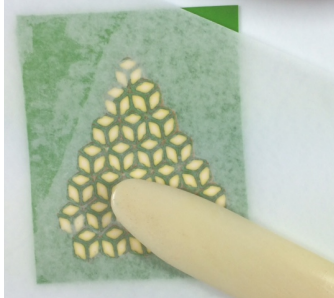
Then was the cane that I reduced to fit my extruder and I extruded through a diamond disk.



I then combine three sections of the extruded cane to construct the hexagonal tumbling block cane. This assembly takes some practice so I suggest you start with three short straight pieces of about 3 inches in length. The next step is the hardest: let the cane rest before you start cutting it especially if the clay is soft.



Using slices of the cane, "wallpaper" them onto a thin (#5) sheet of clay keeping the orientation and alignment as you place each slice. I am using a Kemper bud setting tool to place the individual slices.



Key Point: when cutting your slices, pick the side that will be the "upside" and cut all the pieces without rotating the hexagonal cane. This way your pieces will maintain the same orientation and fit together better. After you lay enough down to fit the size of your project burnish them so they are well fused without seams. I always work on deli paper on the bottom and the top and use a bone folder for burnishing. All the slices should blend together so it looks like a solid piece of fabric.



I use the heart template to cut out the "tree". You might notice that when the blocks come together they form a six side flower pattern. After I construct the heart, add the trunk (a small snake which I texture with my cutting tool) and set a star on the top (cut from a Kemper cutter) I embellish the tree by placing "hot fix" gems in the center of the flowers.



These are examples of using other "scrap canes" to make the tumbling block pattern.



For this pattern I made a skinner blend of various greens and rolled the sheet so that the light was at one end and the dark at the other. I then made the bull's eye cane, extruded it and used slices of the various shades to make the tumbling block.