

7 GREAT WAYS TO TEACH YOURSELF POLYMER CLAY

by Cynthia Tinapple

“Now what?” you ask. You’ve bought a few bars of clay and need some guidance.

Most artists started with a picture of something that captured their imagination. Maybe you saw something on PolymerClayDaily that has sparked your curiosity.

As you begin your journey, here are a few online resources and “how-to” sites to point you in the right direction.

They’re all free! You’ll soon find that the polymer clay community is known for sharing.

These links are sorted by levels and by learning styles. Some of us need a video, some want simple pictures, and some need each step explained in detail. This list offers a way for everyone. Browse down the links and figure out what suits you and then jump in.

In an effort to start you on the right foot, I've selected tutorials that offer good projects, clear directions or pictures, and accurate information. I wouldn't dream of calling this a comprehensive list but it's a great beginning.

A Quick Tip: Refrain from purchasing too many supplies before you start. Shopping can overwhelm you and divert you from the real fun of playing with clay. You'll be surprised at what you can repurpose from your kitchen drawers, tool boxes and sewing kits.

There's plenty of time to invest in tools and advanced tutorials and classes. Explore these resources and enjoy your introduction to the art of polymer.



1. MANUFACTURERS

Who better to start you down the path than the manufacturers themselves?

Polyform Products (makers of Sculpey)
Fimo/Staedtler (makers of Fimo)



2. THE BASICS

Clear and concise explanations of the basics

Polymer Clay Web
Polymer Clay Superstore



3. LIBRARIES OF TECHNIQUES

Like any library, it's chock full and the quality can be uneven. There's a wealth of information at these sites if you're willing to dig around.

[Glass Attic](#)

[Polymer Clay Central](#)

[Craft Stew](#)



4. VIDEOS

Most of these tv shows are no longer on air but this is a nice repository of good entry projects.

[HGTV](#)

[Art Jewelry Magazine](#)



5. FUN STUFF

Clever and simple projects that guarantee success and fun.

Beginner [owl pin](#)

Marie Segal's [word stamps](#) from alphabet soup noodles

Sandra's [round paperclip tutorial](#) for beginners

Sarah Berman [easy name stamp](#)

[Simple heart](#) from Diane Villano

[Crinkle cut swirl](#) from Raija Korpela

Iris Mishly's [Polypedia](#)

Desiree's [Desired Creations](#)

Christi Friesen's [free projects and downloads](#)

[Clay Lessons](#)

[Too Aquarius](#)

[Ponsawan's tutorials](#)

Kim Korringa's [fish cane](#)

Marie Segal's [art from the heart](#)

Easy videos from [FabiConTusManos](#) (Spanish)

Instructables [rosettes tutorial](#)



6. PHOTO STEP-BY-STEP

If you grasp concepts at a glance, you'll enjoy following along with these tutorials.

Buna cord ring

Pumpkin-shaped beads

Unraveled beads with texture from Rebecca Watkins

Faux barbed wire from Camille Young

Bird sculpture

Alice Stroppel's scrap cane

Woven beads from Emma Ralph

Black and white plaid (French)

Iris Mishly's Natasha bead

Miriam's extruded tourbillon (whirlwind) (French)

Wavy blade chevron bead from Anna Anapilogova (Russian)



Faux knitting Claire Wallis

Striped beach balls (French)

Genevieve Williamson's fiber beads

Mabcrea's tutorials (French)

Faux agate from CreationMyWay (French)

Faux leather (French)

Simple texture tools (Russian)

Pendant textured with a button

Mother of pearl (French)



7. MINIATURES

Delights and treasures that require a little clay and a big passion for small things.

[Index of miniature tutorials](#)

[Sweet corn](#) from Angie Scarr

[Miniature fish cane](#) from Shay Aaron

[Shay Aaron](#), more miniatures

[Dinko's characters](#)

[Dinko's video](#)



PLUS: MY FAVORITES

These tried and true classics are among my favorites. Some are easy, some hard and all are delightful.

Susan Hyde's faux fabric

Carving old beads, a before/after from Anna Anpilogova

Fauxpal

Faux Ceramics from PolymerClayWeb

Maggie Maggio's missing link

Dahlia cane from Ponsawan

Faux soutache (Russian)

Faux filière (Russian)

Nan Roche's little video on Japanese captured foil

Lazy river video from Julie Picarello

Liquid polymer trick from Tammy Honaman

SHARE THIS BOOK

Know someone who could benefit from a collection of tutorials? Please email them a copy -- it might be just the thing to get them playing with clay.

SUBSCRIBE

If you're looking for daily inspiration, hop on over to my blog PolymerClayDaily.com and sign up to get updates by email.