

For this project you will need:

- Two or more colors of polymer clay
- Acrylic paints, mica or metallic powders, metal leaf or foils (optional)
- Clay cutters and/or a tissue blade or craft knife
- Roller or pasta machine
- Needle tool or toothpicks (to make holes in beads or pendants)
- Clean work surface
- Baking pan or ceramic tile lined with parchment paper
- Oven

Finishing items (optional):

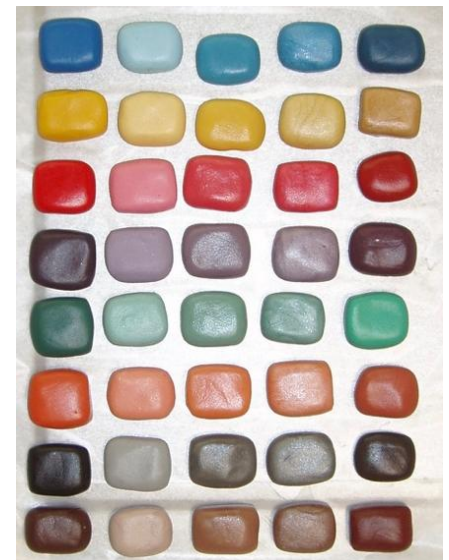
- Wet/dry sandpaper
- Bowl of water (always sand under water and wear a dust mask)
- Cotton cloth for buffing or electric polishing wheel
- Varnish of choice (should be water based or alcohol based)

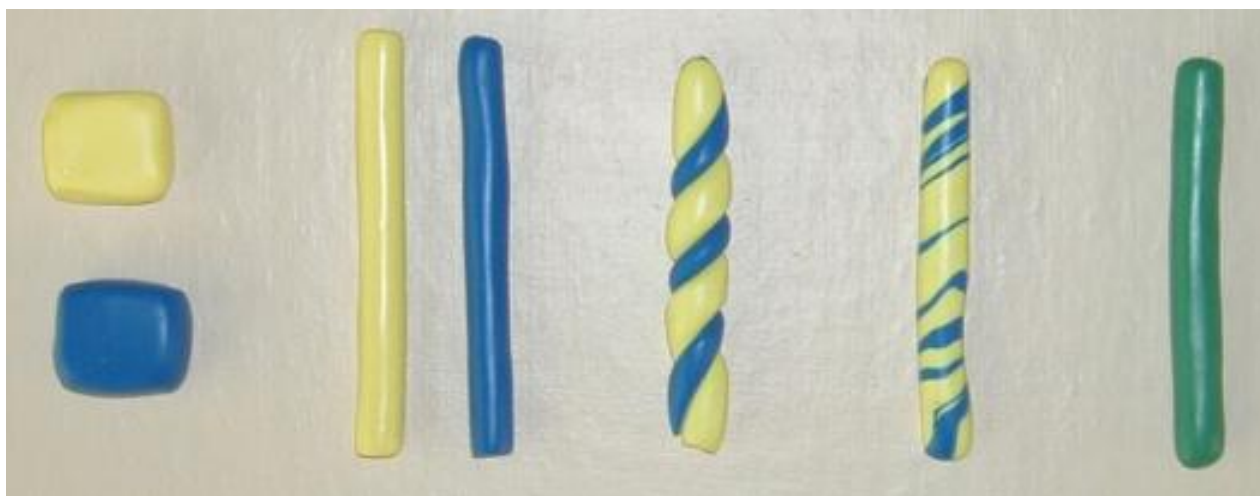
Condition Clay

Start your marbling project by conditioning the clay. Work the clay in your hands by kneading it until the clay is soft and easy to work with. Use a clay roller or a pasta machine to make the process easier.

Color Mixing

Mix the colors of clay you would like to use. You may choose to use one strong base color with one or two contrasting colors or you may decide to use many different variations of a color with several contrasting colors. When using many colors, you may want to include clay effects like transparent colors or mica colors. Adding acrylic paints, mica pigment powders or metal leaf can add an extra dimension to your marbling.





Snaking and Folding

Roll your clay pieces into long snake-like pieces. twist your “snakes” together and fold your clay until you get a pattern that you like. You may choose to cut your clay “snakes” into small pieces that you twist and fold until you get the desired pattern.



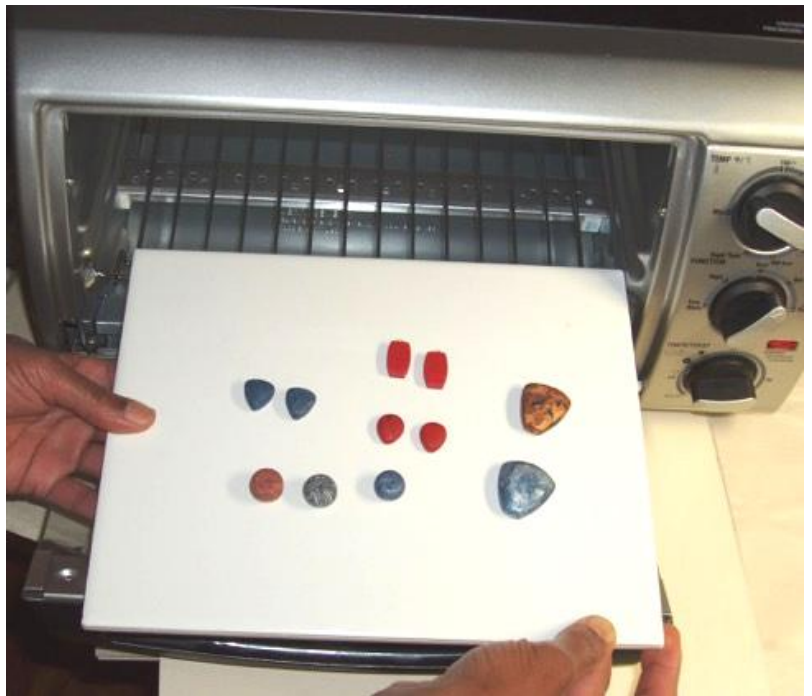
Cut and Shape

Use the marbled clay to form beads, pendants cabochons, bails or clasps by hand. You may want to flatten your clay and use shape cutters or a template to cut out your clay pieces. Use your needle tool or a toothpick to make holes in your pieces to attach findings, cording or chain.



Curing Clay Component

Polymer clay is cured or turned into a solid material by heating in an oven. Follow the manufacturer's directions for curing. Do not go above the recommended heat or time because you may burn your polymer clay. The fumes from burned polymer clay are not safe to breathe.



Finishing

Leave your clay pieces as they are for a beautiful organic looking matte finish or if you want your pieces to be smoother or have more shine you may choose to finish your pieces. There are several ways to finish clay pieces. You can rub them with a cotton cloth to give the clay a more satin finish. You can sand them to provide a

smooth surface and leave it matte or rub them with a cotton cloth to bring the colors and patterns out. To get a high shine, sand and buff with a muslin buffing wheel. If you don't want to go through the sanding process, there are various coatings you can use on your polymer pieces.

Creating Jewelry

Now that you have created beautiful marbled polymer beads pendants or cabochons you can use them to create jewelry. Let your imagination flow and enjoy the process.

