

Tallahassee Polymer Clay Art Guild August 2016 Meeting

One Way to Use Scrap Clay for a Veneer

By

Nancy Benham

Supplies

- Scrap clay many colors (or just two colors)
- Pasta machine
- Roller
- Blade (optional various cutting tools)
- Skewer
- Pointer tool & a slightly larger diameter pointer*
- Water
- Oven
- Jewelry findings (optional)

*The holes may shrink after baking so make them a little larger if you are making jewelry depending on your stringing material. Many of the holes I made needed to be 'worked' with a boring tool after baking.

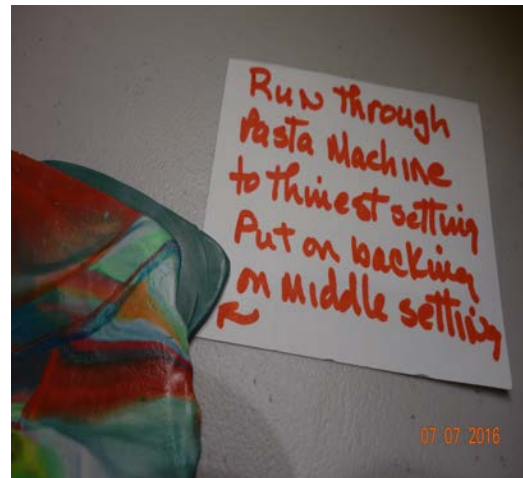
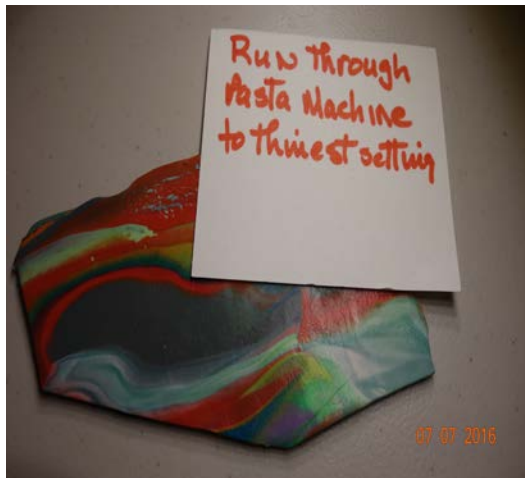
Make the Veneer

- 1) Collect pieces of scrap clay approximately 3" X ½"
- 2) Stack them alternately light and dark.
- 3) Compress and roll into a log.
- 4) Using hands at either end twist the log.
- 5) Fold log and flatten with a roller.
- 6) Place in pasta machine on thickest setting.
- 7) Continue to the thinnest setting.



Make the Backing for the Veneer

- 1) Prep another piece of scrap clay, any color, in the pasta machine.
- 2) Put it through to the middle thickness.
- 3) The backing should be approximately the same size as the veneer.
- 4) Place the veneer over the backing.
- 5) The veneer and backing can be pressed together using a rolling tool or placed in the pasta machine to the thickness you want.
- 6) The purpose of the backing is to give support to the very thin veneer making it easier to work with.



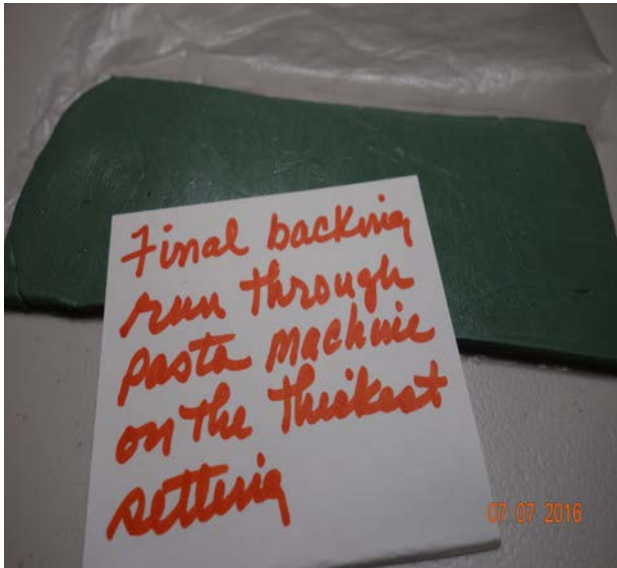
Cut the Veneer

- 1) Cut the veneer with a straight blade, a scalloped blade or any cutting tool of various shapes. I cut triangles with a straight blade.
- 2) Place these individual veneer strips on another piece of scrap clay that has been put through the pasta machine on the middle thickness, or roll with a rolling tool. (you can play with different textures - the individual cut pieces of veneer can be thicker than the backing to produce a 3-D effect or you may want a smooth flat effect).
- 3) Position the cut-out sections perpendicular to the triangles. I used a small rectangle.



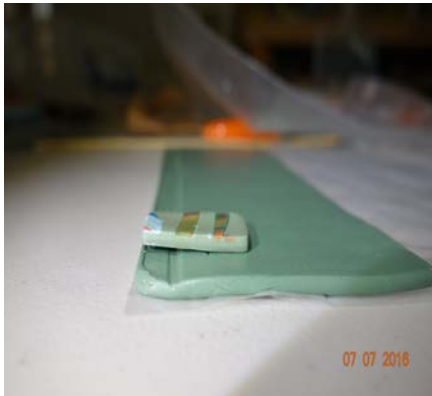
Place the Cut Veneer on a Thick Back

- 1) Prep another piece of scrap clay and run through the pasta machine's thickest setting (my piece was approximately 6" X 3" for my purpose).
- 2) Line up a skewer about 1/4" running along the edge of the backing.
- 3) Press to form a channel with the skewer.



Make Cannel in the Backing

- 1) Line the pieces over the channel of the backing.
- 2) Use a rolling tool to press the veneer and backing together trying not to crush the channel - do not run through the pasta machine.
- 3) Recut the veneer with the cut-out tool.
- 4) Adjust shape and channel as needed.



Use Pointer Tool to Check for Channel Patency

- 1) Let the clay rest overnight or place in the fridge for 20 minutes.
- 2) Dip the pointer tool into some water, insert the pointer into the hole the channel has made, and with a turning motion push the pointer through.
- 3) Avoid distorting the clay by frequently dipping the pointer in water.
- 4) When you meet resistance it is time to use more water.
- 5) Here are two bracelets made with scrap clay.



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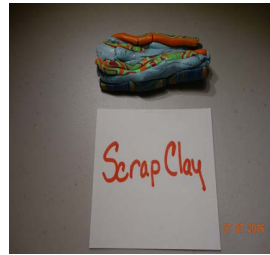
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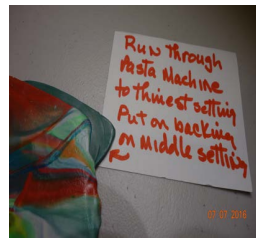
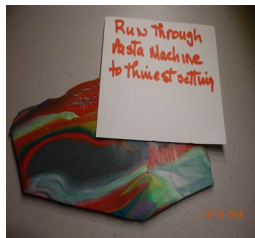
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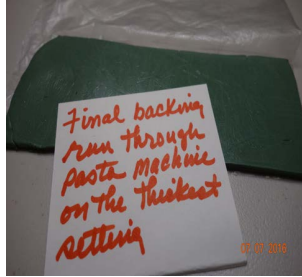
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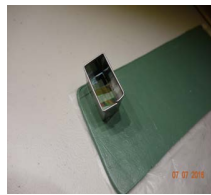
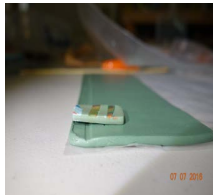
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