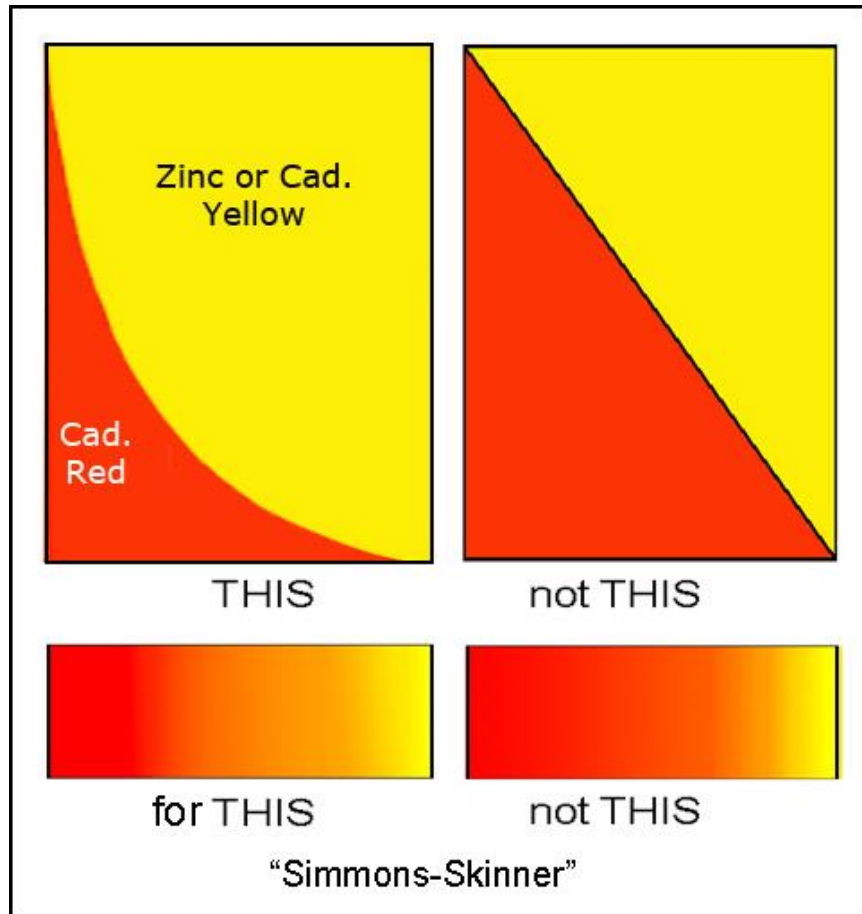


Foolproof Blends

Using Color Scales and a Simmons-Skinner Blend template

Custom Patterns versus Equal Triangles



This picture illustrates how a pattern accommodates the differences in pigment strength of the two colors.

When we make the color scales, the differences in pigment strength will become more apparent.

Making the Pattern

1. Draw a rectangle the *width of your pasta machine* and as tall as you want your sheet of clay to be.
2. Draw a *vertical* line down the center. Write $1/2$ just above it.
3. Draw several equally spaced lines to the left and the right of the center line.
4. Measure *halfway up* from the bottom line of the rectangle and draw a *horizontal* line all the way across. Label it $1/2$ at both ends.
5. Measure $1/4$ of the way up and draw a *horizontal* line all the way across. Label it $1/4$ at both ends.
6. Measure $3/4$ of the way up and draw a horizontal line all the way across. Label it $3/4$ at both ends.
7. Do the same for each of these proportions: $1/128$, $1/64$, $1/32$, $1/16$, $15/16$, $31/32$, $63/64$, $127/128$. The graph should look like the picture above.

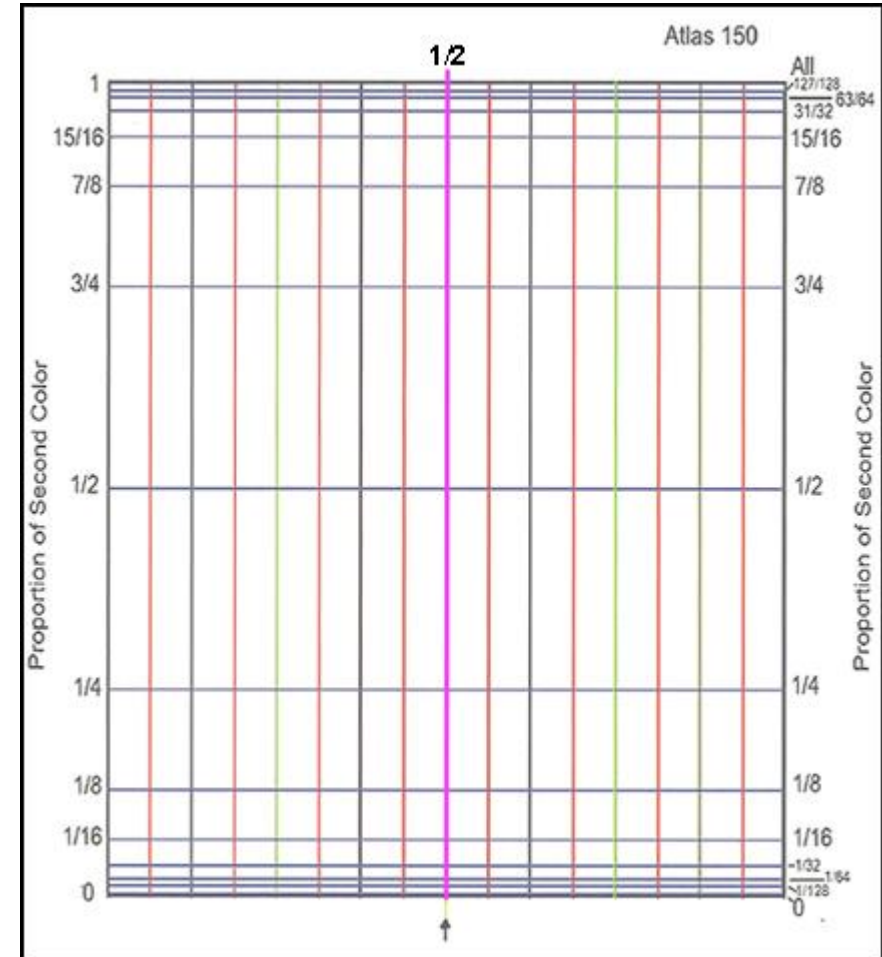


Image and text credit to Carol Simmons:

<http://carolsimmonsdesigns.com/2016/how-to-make-a-pattern-for-a-simmons-skinner-blend/>

Two Tips for measuring and marking the lines

- Measure and make a mark on opposite sides of the rectangle, and line the ruler up with both marks.
- Use Siri or Alexa to do the math: “Hey Siri, what’s $1/128^{\text{th}}$ of [the length of my blend]?” (insert your number)

Setting up for making color scales

Cut out 9 (nine) squares of each of two colors that you want to blend.

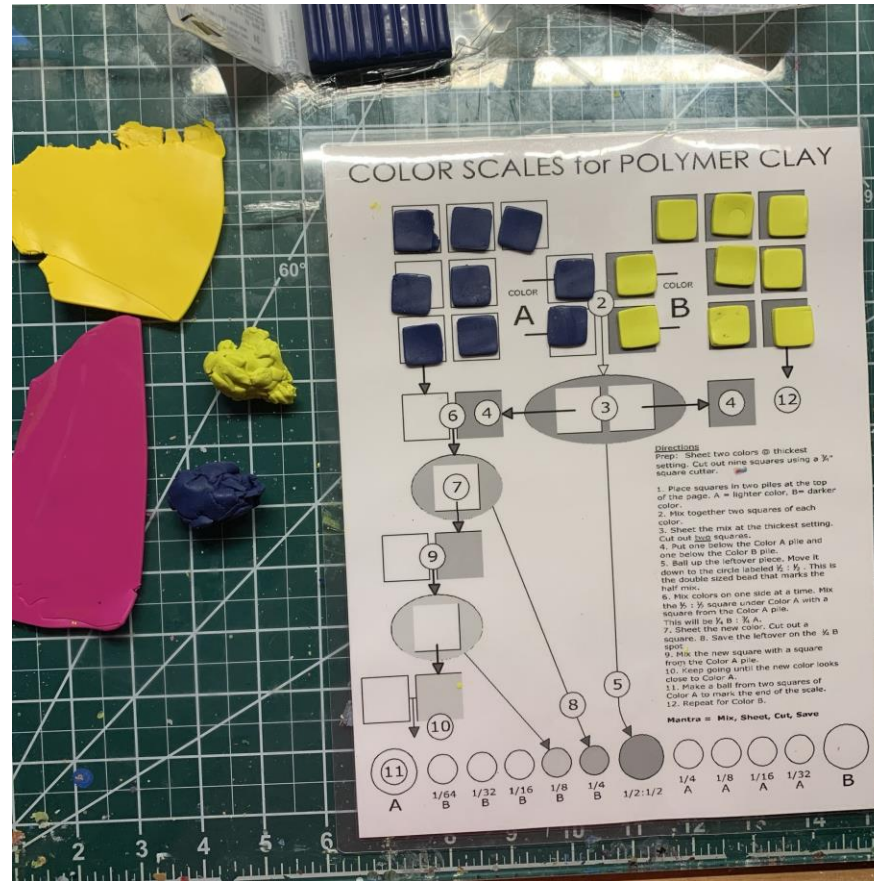
Suggest $\frac{3}{4}$ " – 1" squares.

Smaller than $\frac{3}{4}$ " will be annoying to handle.

Larger than 1" takes longer to mix.

I usually roll out at thickest setting on pasta machine.

Lay them out as shown.



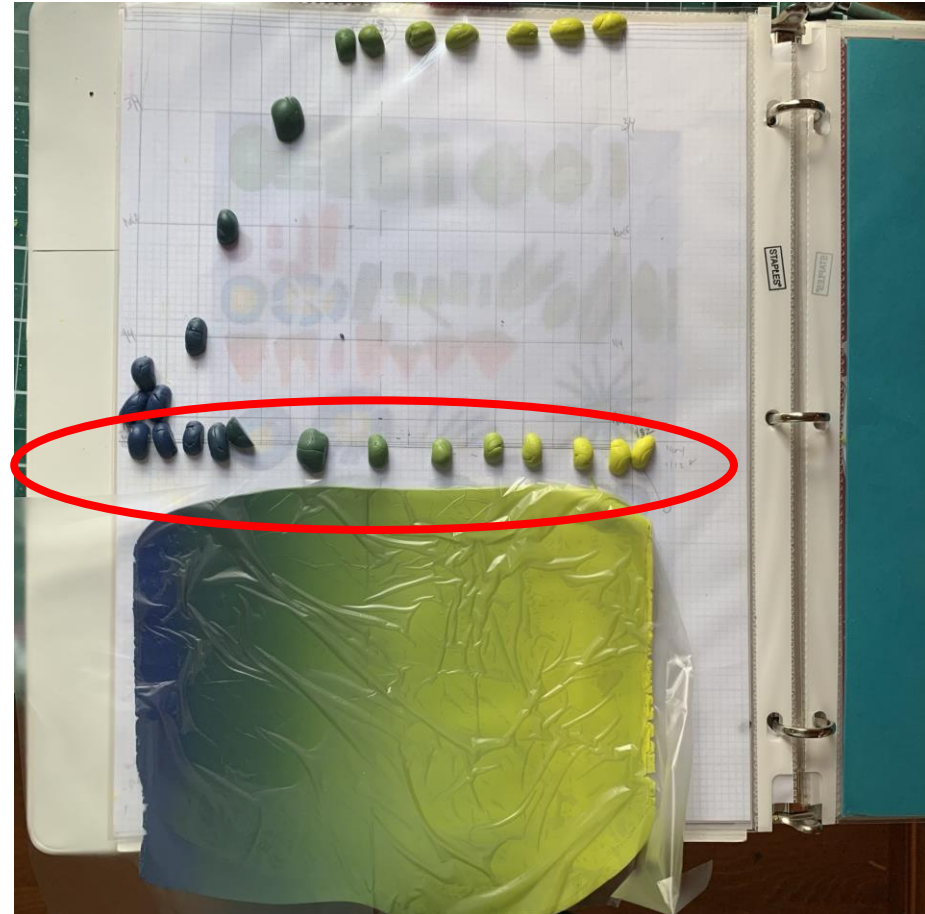
When all the colors are mixed,
You'll have a row of beads than runs from one color to the other.

DO NOT CURE THEM

Cut each of the beads in half,
Keeping them in order.

Setting up the grid template – step 1

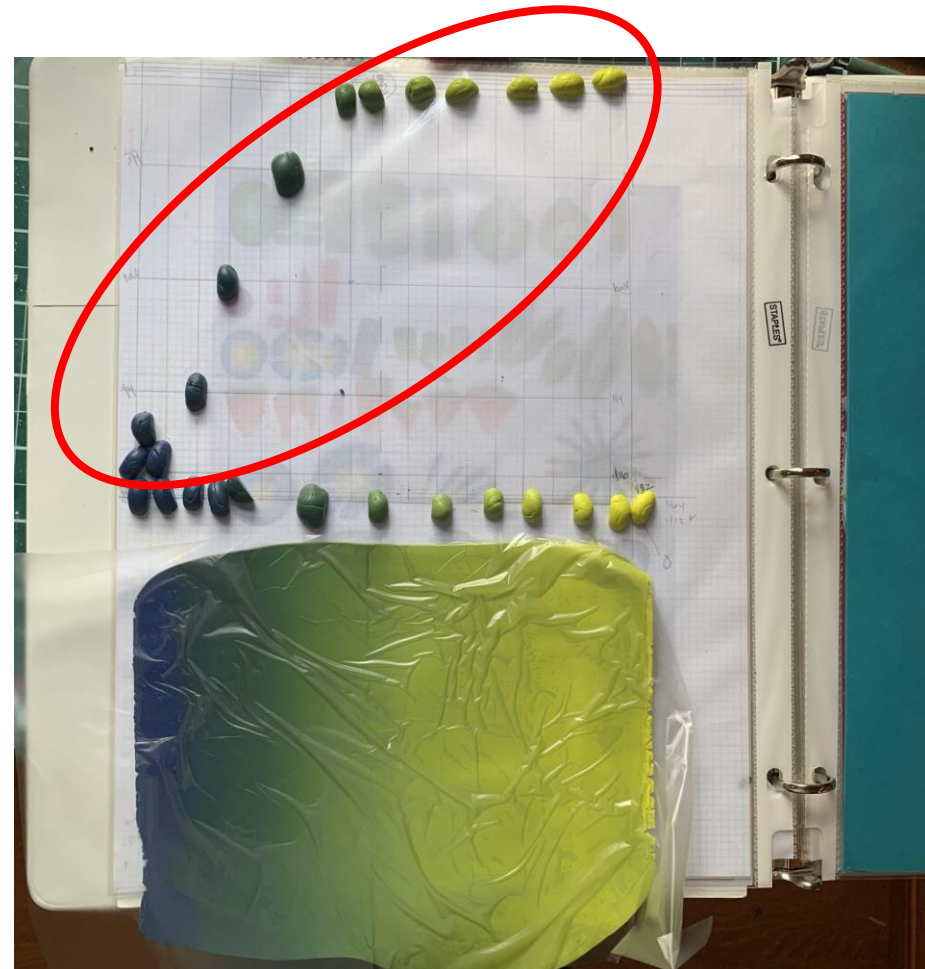
Step 1 –arrange one set of the beads along the bottom of the prepared template grid.
Place the colors as you wish to see them in the final blend.
In other words, distribute the colors to your liking.
Maybe you want heavy on one color
Or light on one color. Cluster and/or separate the beads till it looks right to your eye.



Setting up the grid template – step 2

Step 2 –arrange the second set of beads above it's mate on the bottom row, with the first one on the left at the lowest of the the horizontal lines of the prepared template grid.

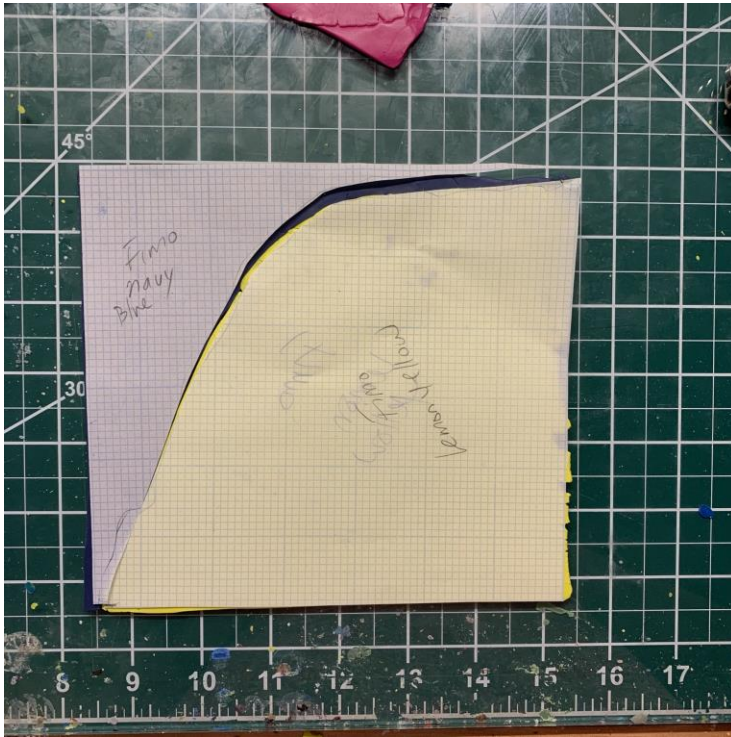
Continue to place each bead of the second set on the grid, moving up one horizontal line for each bead, and always placed directly above its mate on the bottom row.



Tracing the pattern

- Lay a sheet of paper over the beads of clay on the template.
- Press lightly so you can see the shape of the pattern formed by the beads.
- Lightly draw a line on the paper that follows the shape of the pattern.
- Remove the paper and cut out the pattern pieces.
- Label each piece with the color and the brand of clay.
 - This is reusable for this color and brand.
 - Making it from plastic stencil sheets will last longer

Paper Pattern is reusable



Label the pattern pieces with the brand and color name

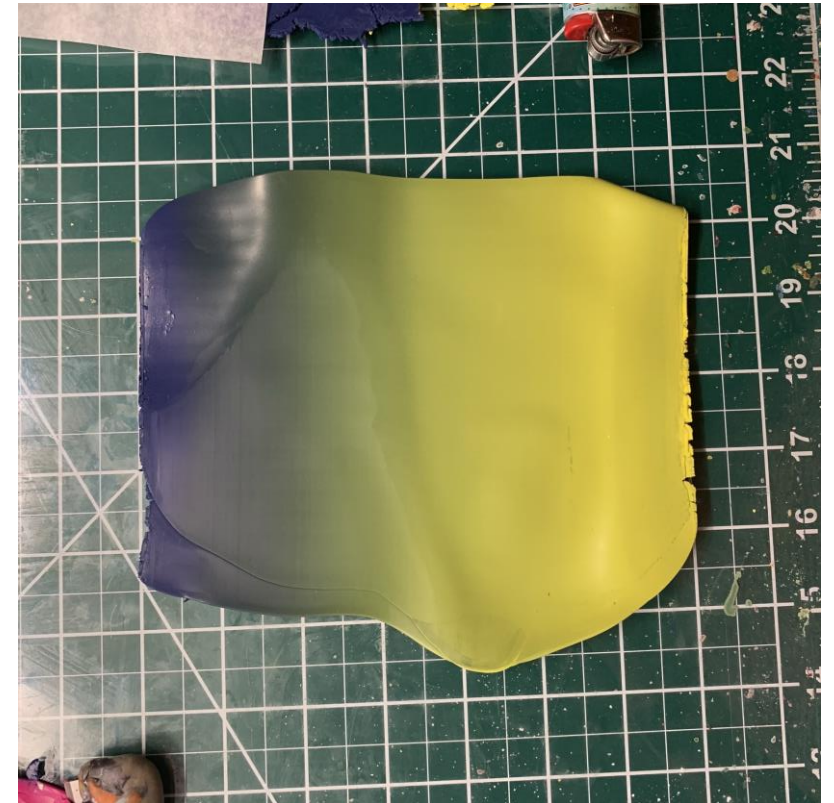


Fold and roll repeatedly til done

Basic Skinner Blending Method

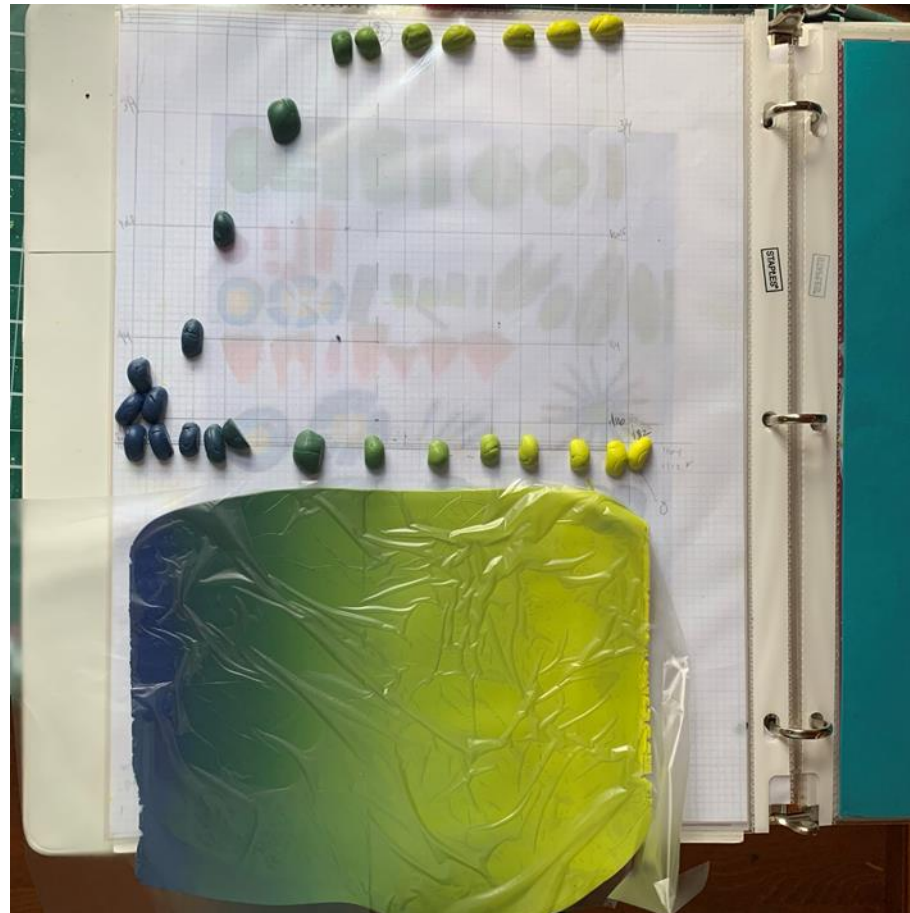


Always fold and feed the sheet in the same direction, and, so that the colors match: in this example the sheet feeds into the pasta machine with the blue on the left and the yellow on the right. It is folded and fed into the pasta machine in the same direction every time: Blue to blue, yellow to yellow. (your colors will vary, the concept is the same)

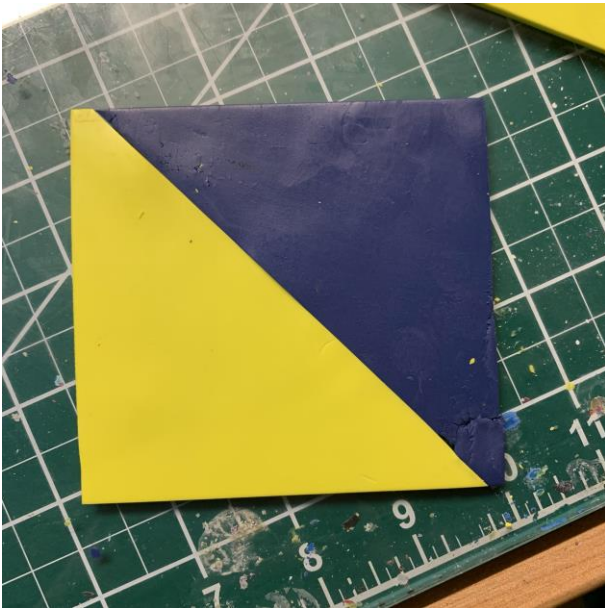


Look!

See how the bottom row lines up with the finished blended sheet.

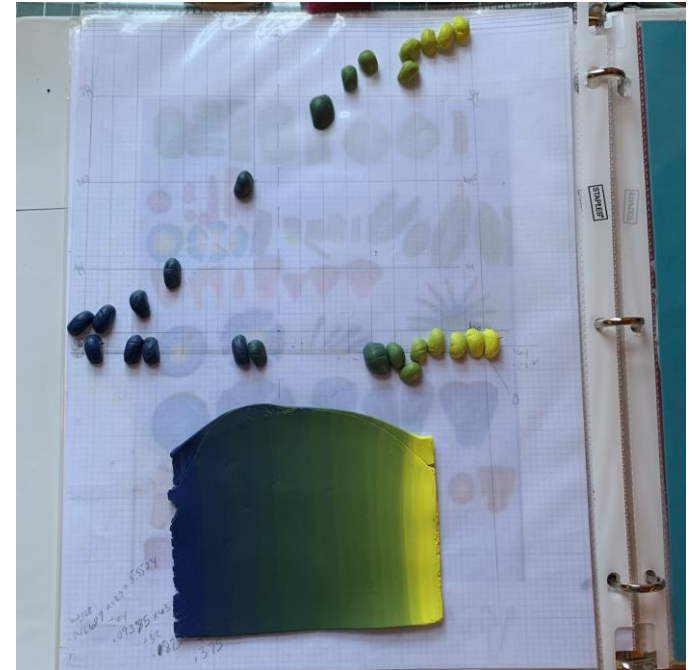


Compare to the triangle method



See how the beads along the bottom row line up with the blend made from equal triangles.

The bead-line can be adjusted to suit whatever your goal is for the color blend

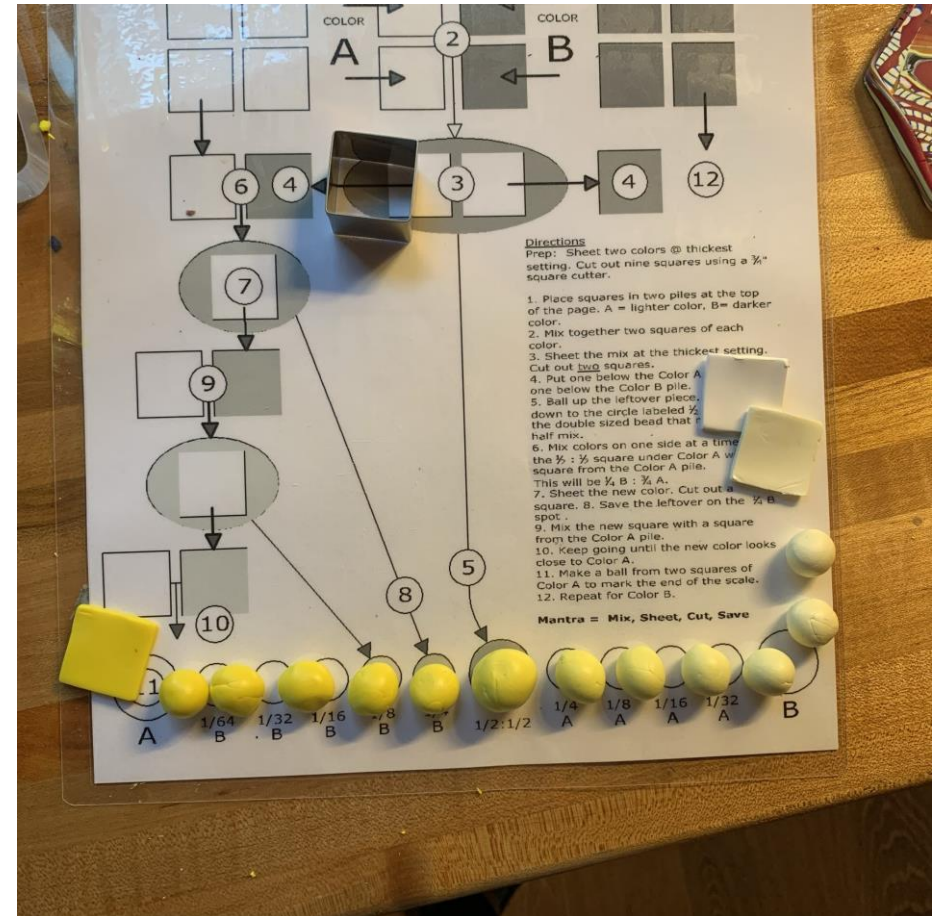


Let's do a pastel blend

Depending on the pigment strength of the brand and color you choose, the number of beads in each direction will vary.

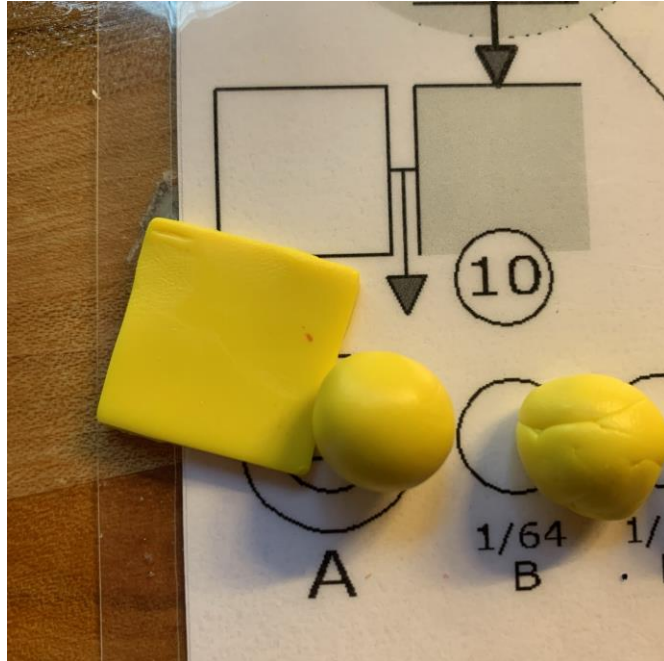
Here it can be seen that a little bit of yellow goes a really long way when mixed with white.

What do you think the pattern will look like?

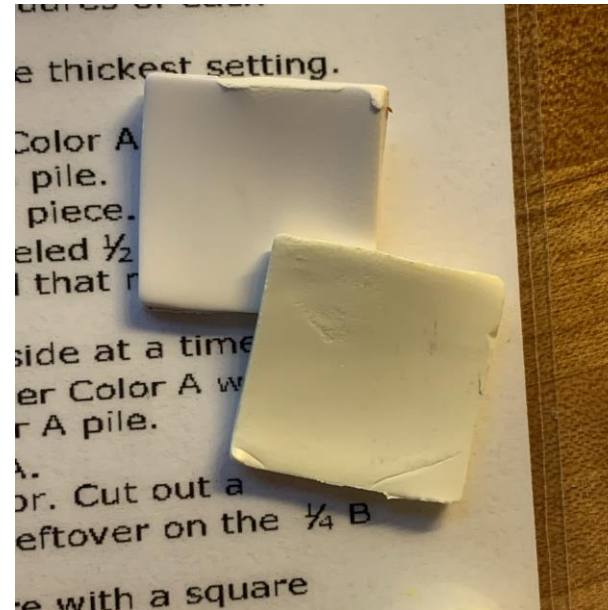


The power of yellow!

1:64



1:256



What about shades?

- Make a batch of mud and choose one primary to blend. Every batch of mud will be different, so be sure to make enough for the project.
- One primary color will be dominant in most cases; our eyes will learn to discern this with practice.
- A great App for iPhone is I Love Hue – it's a fabulous training puzzle for subtle changes in hue.