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ClayAround



At our recent clayday I suggested we attempt signature canes. They aren't as easy as they look and our attempts were variable. I am brave enough to show you my attempt (right) in order to have you see how difficult it is to perfect them. The one on the left is produced by the top clayer Bettina Welker: that is how it should be done! So here are some links to give you inspiration, ideas and help. [Here is one](#) made a long time ago by Cara Jane " showing you how to put them together. Or you can buy a tutorial from [Iris Mishly](#). [Here](#) is an example by Alkhymeia or a nice clear tutorial by Tina Holden [here](#). As you can see she shows how you can potentially create a logo too.

Slightly off at a tangent, you could create your own stamp using mould maker " see [this idea](#): More ideas [here](#). Or if you don't want to make your stamp, you could have one made to your design " see [this](#). Whichever way you go, they are a nice way to finish off your work.





Penni Jo's™ molds are really popular now people have found them! And they have just announced a new mould which I have just acquired: 'The Green Man'™ it was noticed by a customer who runs an interesting shop in Glastonbury she says it complements the Woodland Spirits mould.

Helen Breil is particularly discriminating in what she uses with her clay. She has recently recommended both Gorilla Glue Gel (the Gel doesn't slip) available [here](#) and as promised we now have some water based varnish which she considers is the best she has used, yet by Golden. You can get Gloss [here](#) or Matte which she recommends as it is a protector without adding surface effects that you might not want. You can find that [here](#) It has been pointed out to me too that it is very economical as it is 4 fluid ounces and can be watered down. A really good buy. We have a new supply of Pan Pastels too including more of the metallic ones that Ginger of The Blue Bottle Tree likes for their richness and intensity!

Not quite as pleasing: I spent a day at the trade fair this week. There are three agents for Ranger alcohol inks in the UK - one doesn't stock them and the other two have virtually none. We may have to wait a couple of months for more.



I have recently encountered Jules Harper who works only 25 miles away from where ClayArond is in Wales. Jules has been teaching polymer clay and metal clay jewellery making for many years and has a facebook page [here](#)

She tells me that she has recently developed an interest in Roman findings and is motivated to do more work with her polymer clay. She is busy with her other business as a Complementary Therapist so like so many of us, does not do as much with her clay as she would like to be doing. I have chosen this lovely piece of hers because those of you who are going to Polymania know that black and white is the theme for the bead swap.

A reminder for those going to Polymania that ClayAround will have most of the material available that you will need for the workshops. We will be at the hotel for the full three days.

If there is anything that you want that you can't find - let me know soon so I can attempt to acquire it for you.

Note that Polymania is claiming me from 17th- 21st March so no orders will be processed on those days!

Our next clayday is on Saturday 26th March - details [here](#) - as usual, beginners and experts alike are welcome!

Creativity takes courage!

Henry Matisse

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