

March Newsletter

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



Polymania was fantastic and I am still catching up after being away for four days. Donna Kato gave me a piece she had made which has pride of place in my collection (see picture above left) and lots of ideas were formulated. A lot of what was learned at the workshop was about "closures" so here are some ideas:

First is an idea I picked up off the Net a long time ago (see top right) and I can't remember where so can't credit it so simple. When making a chocker simply bend the end of the wire and put a blob of clay on the end. What is great is that can match the colour of the piece that you have made.

Desiree teaches us how to make a [ball and loop](#) closure which is slightly different idea, but also requires that you put some clay on one end of the cord and a bead on the other.

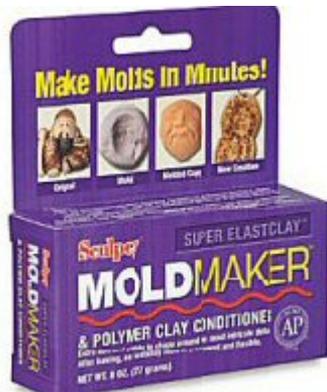
Another idea is to make a [single sliding knot](#), so simple and useful - and detailed in a video.

[This closure](#) is a little more adventurous and has many possibilities as it becomes the feature of the piece: And [another](#) along similar lines with a different shaped feature:

If you are interested in wire work then this [simple wrap](#) may be to your liking:

For me this is a really [clever closure](#) but you would have to be a linguist to read the

instructions. However, the pictures are very clear (NB for some reason this link doesn't open in every browser so if you are keen to see it and it doesn't show, try a different browser!) Finally, here is the predictable [Pinterest page](#) on which you can spend hours looking at possibilities.



It has been a struggle to get a new supply of mold maker but we now have a plentiful supply! I may have told you before that a small amount added to your clay acts as a brilliant softener. This was a tip taught to me by [Lynne Ann Schwarzenberg](#). We have also added to our collection of texture plates, and will be finding more soon.

Returning to talk of Polymania, it was sponsored by the distributor of [Kato clay](#) so 50 people used only Kato. It is not a well used clay in the UK despite being far superior in many ways to most of the others. Kato is a little more effort to condition, but then keeps its conditioned state much longer. It is an exceptional clay for making canes and has a lovely sheen when cured and completed. If you haven't ever tried it, it may be worth experimenting with – you will be quite surprised and delighted!



Valerie Anderson was at Polymania and created this lovely necklace with direction from Bettina Welker. Valerie sells at craft fairs in Edinburgh and the Lothians near where she lives and has been making jewellery for around 6 years (she does beading and wirework too) You can find more about [here](#) and on [her etsy pages](#):

This month's Clayday has had to be postponed – again! There is building work being done at the ClayAround headquarters and therefore no space until it is completed. Keep your eyes on the [community website](#) for details of when we will all meet again. Mind you we have collected even more interested people as a result of the efforts of the members of the [British Polymer Clay Guild](#) at the latest Hobby Craft exhibition.

Creativity takes courage.

Henri Matisse

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