

I am back from the USA with one or two useful hints and tips. Random bits and pieces that you might or might not know about:

- You can clean and sharpen your blades by using 600 or 800 grit sandpaper
- Add a little mold maker to your clay if it is crumbling or old
- When conditioning your clay go from thickest setting down to the thinnest – the thinner the roller used the faster your clay will condition
- If you ‘tug’ your piece of clay a little after each roll through the pasta machine it will condition faster
- When curing your clay on a tile put wax paper under it so your piece doesn’t acquire a shine on the base

My interest in inclusions was raised whilst I was away because Lisa Pavelka uses her foils with clay quite frequently. She did point out that when using foil as decoration, put a layer of Translucent liquid clay over it to stop wear. She also showed us how to ‘rip off the foil top’ as if you were ripping off an Elastoplast i.e very fast and sideways, not upwards. She created some stunning pendants using her own left over pieces of foil

http://www.clayaround.com/product_info.php?cPath=24&products_id=333

She is soon to bring out a new range of foils -examples of which are here.



I found a great website when looking for advice on inclusions <http://www.jewelry-and-polymerclay-tutorial-heaven.com/Mica-powder.html#axzz1ZiTDx0eL> (and as you will find it has lots of other tutorials too.)

The other person who never ceases to please is Angela Mabray (‘Craft Goat’) and she offers advice onto how to use inclusions to create Faux rocks:

http://craftygoat.com/2008/03/3_ways_to_create_faux_polymer.html

I like the advice from Kim Cavender as she has used some fusible metallic fibre as an inclusion to excellent effect. <http://kimcavender.blogspot.com/2008/03/all-inclusive-polymer-clay.html> So if you are a crafter who uses threads then surely you can produce some wonderful effects by experimenting with lots of different fancy threads.

And finally. I have found a new and unusual Kato product which I haven’t found it in the UK yet. (To be fair a veteran clayer asked for this) It is Kato PolyGlue Black Flex CA. What it is is a ‘super glue’ for polymer clay. How often have we looked for an effective glue to use on Metal, or rubber, or, of course on clay? This glue holds – and holds well. It is sold in small bottles as, like most super glues



it has a shelf life (of around 9 months). I haven't used it yet, but I have it on good authority that it is first class

Picture of glue

Its not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.

Albert Einstein