

Have you discovered Clay Lessons yet? Apart from there being loads of tutorials, it is a great website where there is lots of interesting reading for clayers. Look at this history of polymer clay for instance: <http://www.claylessons.com/article/history-polymer-clay>

And if history interests you, you might also like to discover the origins of Polymer Mokume Gane in this article: <http://polymerartarchive.com/2010/04/30/the-origins-of-polymer-mokume-gane/#more-2019>

And whilst it has nothing to do with history, I do want to remind you that Christine Dumont, a very well respected polymer clay teacher, is running her very reasonably priced (only 60) workshop in London on September 17th and that she tells me there are only a couple of places left. You will be making these wonderful pods, and she says it is a progressive workshop so is ideal for beginners, but that those with experience will be given more challenging tasks if they choose. If you go you will undoubtedly enhance your skills.



Full details here: <http://www.allovercreation.net/Pods.html>

I don't know about you, but I do a lot of mooching around the Net to get ideas in particular ideas for colours, patterns and possibilities. I came across this site by Cathy Savels where even the landing page offers wonderful colour ideas for making canes. <http://www.cathysavels.com/index.html>

Although I knew about it, something else I came across was a reminder that you can use Play Dough as a wrap for your flower canes so that there is no background visible. Play Dough is based on water and as such will not stick to your clay, so can be peeled off. Have a look at the explanation here: <http://naamazamir.blogspot.com/2009/05/breakthrough.html>

Another discovery I have made is Ultralight by Sculpey. http://www.clayaround.com/product_info.php?cPath=12&products_id=408



It is a white clay that is particularly light weight, ideal for armatures or the centre of large beads (and costs less as a centre than other clays). If you roll it thinly and cure it, is flexible enough to use for scrapbooking projects, and like other clays you can paint it with acrylic paint or mix with other clays to colour it. Oh, and it floats so it opens up all sorts of interesting options. If you haven't tried it yet, I know you will be delighted with it.



The other good news is that I have had acrylic rollers especially made for ClayAround, identical to those produced by other suppliers known to clayers, but these will save you money.....http://www.clayaround.com/product_info.php?cPath=1&products_id=409

*"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success.
If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."
Albert Schwietzer.*

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