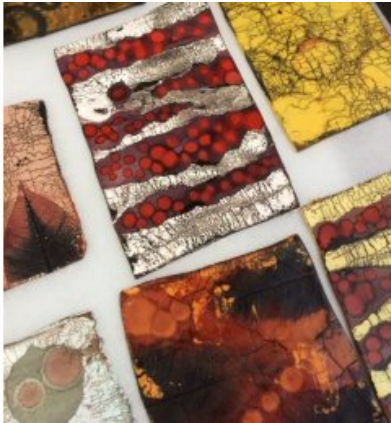


# October 2018

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



I am fascinated by alcohol inks and there are so many quite excellent possibilities when using them with polymer clay. The 'alcohol ink' queen is Debbie Crothers, who, by the way, will be teaching at Polymania in March. (above left is a picture of the sort of things she will be teaching). [Here](#) is a YouTube video of her experimenting with alcohol inks. Debbie loves creating crackle effects – do search [her website](#) for there are lots of free tutorials. Jessima also has crackle effect ideas and shows you a number [here](#) using texture sheets.

You can get lots of information too from Ginger for she has produced a really excellent article on [The Blue Bottle tree](#) giving you vast amounts of information about alcohol inks. See above right what she did to show the effect of alcohol inks on translucent clay.

Alcohol ink is frequently used with liquid clay and this is an [interesting example](#) in another YouTube video. I found, too, this rather classy pendant, also using liquid clay, on [Crafty Goat's](#) website. Another interesting example is [here](#) – this is made mixing translucent clay with alcohol ink and a little silver glitter.

There are so many projects demonstrated by different clayers – here is a great idea from [Ludmila Bakulina](#). She uses deli paper, and lots of patience, but to really excellent effect. Here is another idea, and tutorial, by [Syndee Holt](#)

This demonstration is being done [on tiles](#) but could just as easily be produced on polymer clay, and she comes up with so many ideas. And there are more ideas. This offers me the opportunity to introduce you to [gelli plates](#). This video shows you how

to use alcohol inks and gelli plates for card making, but for paper substitute polymer clay and you have a world of opportunity. Next month I will be offering gelli plates in a kit – ideal Christmas gifts to watch out for.

I have been doing my homework and you can create your own blending solution to use with your alcohol inks. Either 2oz surgical spirit with 5ml of ethyl glycerol (which, by the way is anti-freeze!) (sorry about the mixed measurements!). Or alternatively 2oz of surgical spirit or isopropyl alcohol with 2-3 drops of glycerine. Try it out!



I really don't know where to start with new goodies. I guess the overriding one is I now have the new and quite lovely [Cernit Metallic clay](#) – see above these magnificent pens that Stef Saward made with the new clay. More of Steph's work can be found on 'Steph's Crafty Bits' on Facebook. [Here](#) is an excellent Youtube video showing the new clay being tested by Ana Belchi

But I am also excited to say that I have managed to find someone who has made me some [cane ends](#) – so we have sets here, nicely finished, and useful sizes (however, if you think different sizes would be useful let me



I want to introduce you to Hazel Stenhouse. With her daughter, she was producing glass mosaics and component jewellery for many years before she discovered polymer clay. Debbie Bulford is the culprit! Hazel, like so many, saw Debbie on Jewellery Maker and is now a self-confessed addict.

She tells me "I love using natural textures, flowers, leaves, bark, shell etc. Often collecting bits and pieces when walking the dogs then using silicone to make my moulds. I then make tiles for hook boards and pictures, still enjoying mosaicing. My textures often creep into my jewellery too."

I really love her work and her colour palate seen above. She now has an [Etsy shop](#) where she sells, along with Craft Fairs, local Galleries (The Barony, West Kilbride for one) If you

know whilst our supplier is feeling amenable!)

want to find her on Facebook look for Xenara Crafts

Back to Debbie Crothers, I have been buying some of what will be needed for Polymania (not long now) – so we have in particular [disposable gloves](#); lots of [pipettes](#) to use with alcohol ink; small sheets of [parchment paper](#) to put your work on; some [tiny tools](#) (only 8.5cm long) with two different pointy ends and some more [mini hand drills](#) with loads of bits.

As you know we have our very special workshop on 18 November here in mid Wales – this is the only workshop Fiona is going to be doing with her bangles tutorial. There are two places left if you want to join other clayers in order to work with Fiona. [Details here](#)

I am adding more stock as November goes on – keep an eye out. My experience is I get a plethora of orders from 'significant others' around this time of year - so maybe you can drop hints as to what you want at Christmas time!

I have been complaining about parcels being lost in the post which is decidedly inconvenient for buyers and expensive for me.. I am currently reverting to using Royal Mail and splitting orders that are more than 2 kilos in weight. So my apologies if your orders come in separate parcels (sometimes on different days).. It is surely more important that they arrive!

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Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better do better.

Maya Angelou

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