

Cylindrical Mirror Bead Tutorial

by Maria Jam Brown

Looking for a familiar but different way to use up scrap clay? My friend Cathy Gilbert inspired me to create this tutorial because she was interested in how I made these beads. It's a very simple technique that tweaks the oh-so-familiar mirror (Natasha) bead. I built it off of the mirror bead, so if you know how to make those- this will be a snap.

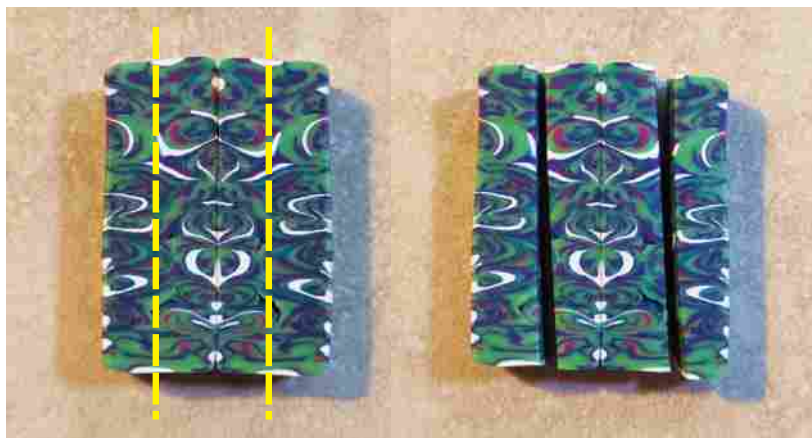
Find some scrap colors in your pile of leftovers that provide a lot of contrast. If they have mica powder on them, it's fine. Don't use Sculpey Souffle or any scrap clay with glitter, fibers, or inclusions that will 'drag' your blade.



This technique will give you the best results with a sharp tissue blade and cool clay.

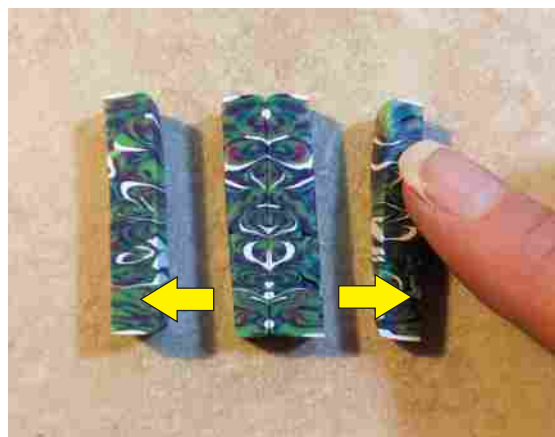
Step 1

Twist some high-contrast scrap clay and form into a rectangle. Cut in half lengthwise.



Step 2

Roll the two halves out to reveal the mirror image. Cut these two halves down the middle lengthwise.

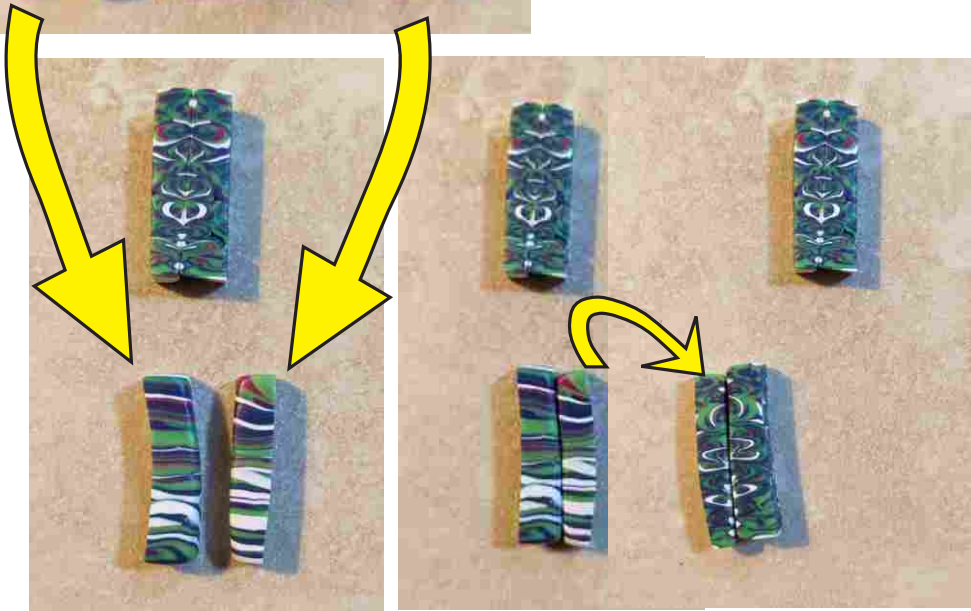


Step 3

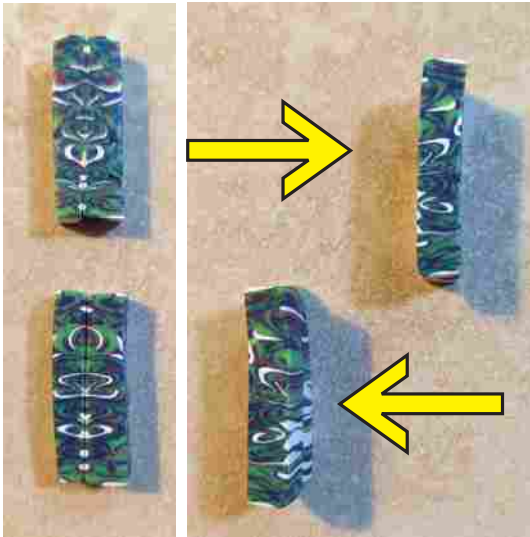
Roll these two cut pieces outward 1/4 turn, or 90 degrees, just like you would when making a mirror bead.



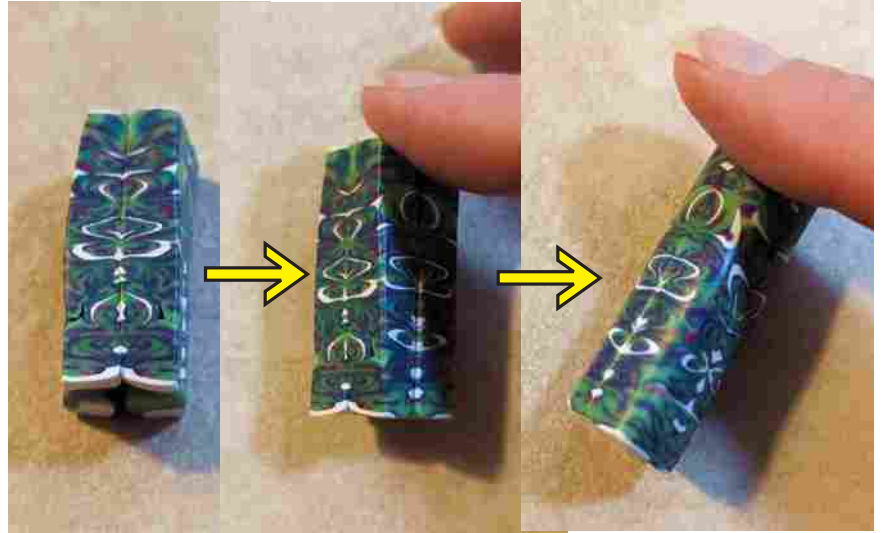
Here are the two cut pieces outward 1/4 turn, or 90 degrees.



Step 4
Push the two side pieces together. Flip them over like a pancake.



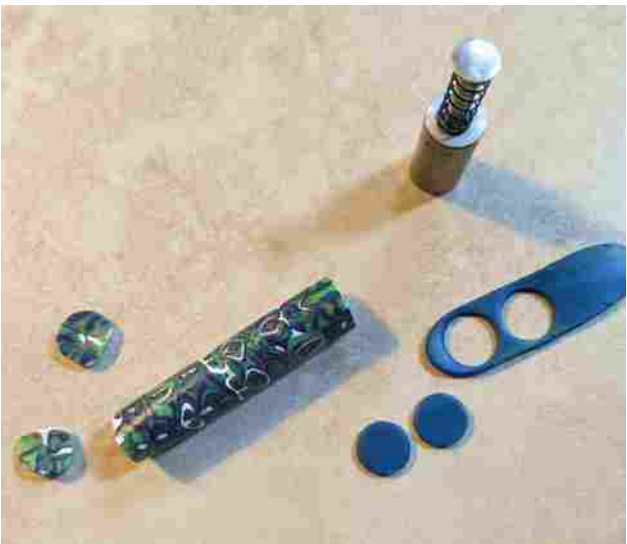
Step 5
Match up the pattern. Roll both of these pieces on their side, the top one to the right and the bottom one to the left.



Step 6
Stick the non-cut sides together and match up the pattern. All sides of the original rectangle should now be inside. Start gently rolling the bead until it's a cylinder.



Step 7
Cut off the uneven ends.



Step 8
Finish the bead by adding clay circles in the color of your choice.



Step 9
Poke a hole through the middle and you're done!