

How-To Gain Control Over Color in Polymer Clay

The Polymer Palette: Color Mixing Guidelines for Polymer Clay

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**Color Mixing Guidelines
for Polymer Clay**

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<http://www.artist-how-to.com>



Color Mixing for the Polymer Clay Artist

Why use this e-zine? Polymer clay artists come from all sorts of backgrounds. That is one of the wonderful things about polymer clay, there is something to be found for everyone to enjoy. But mixing colors can sometimes be frustrating. Unless you already have a background in art, you can waste a great deal of time, and clay, getting just the colors you want. This information will help to cut through information available for painters, but not aimed at the polymer clay artist. It is important if you want to gain knowledge on mixing colors of polymer clay, to create a 'reference library' of colors. Because we all know you will not be giving up polymer clay any time soon, it is well worth the investment of time.

The mixed colors in these samples are approximations. The colors that you will see will depend upon the settings of your monitor and/or printer. The best way to see true results is to do your own test to simulate what is shown.

To start we need to be sure we are all speaking the same language. I have made sure to include and explain the terms and labels given to the areas involving color and color mixing. I suggest you read all the way through the text before beginning.

Making Samples

When mixing your colors you need to set up a standard of measurement. This means that you need to use equal size proportions of the clay. All colors you mix should be run through a pasta machine at the same setting, to help insure consistency. If you do not have a pasta machine be sure that the clay is rolled out in a consistent thickness. You can do this by rolling the clay out on a flat surface with an acrylic roller or brayer, with stacks of two equal thicknesses laying on either side.

Once you have the layers made you need to cut shapes that are all the same, to use as a standard measurement of the amount of clay used. I use the end of a container that beads were purchased in, but you can just as easily use a cookie cutter, condiment container opening or other object. I would suggest that you cut away the shape from a container, so that both end are open. This way the clay will not get stuck inside and you will be able to push you through with your finger tip.



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