



Linda Leach Designs

Basket Weave Teardrop Cane Tutorial

Materials:

- 2oz Dark colored clay
- 2oz Light colored clay
- 2oz Translucent clay

Tools:

- Pasta machine
- Sharp tissue blade
- Small pieces of parchment paper
- Tile or glass work surface

Introduction:

This tutorial is not meant for an absolute beginner, but assumes that certain basic clay techniques are known. There are plenty of online videos to explain how to do techniques such as gradients (skinner blend), jelly rolls, etc.

Instructions:



1. Condition the dark and light-colored clay. Create a gradient using 1 ounce of each color. The gradient should be 2-3 inches in width. Run it through the pasta machine at the smallest setting from light to dark. Roll strip into a jelly roll carefully getting rid of air bubbles as you go. Stretch jelly roll to about 3 inches long. Pinch one side to change roll into a teardrop shape.



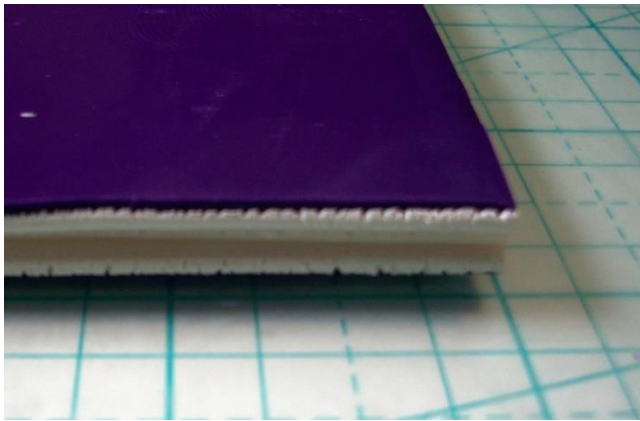
2. Create a medium width layer of the light-colored clay and wrap the teardrop cane. Then wrap the whole cane in a very thin layer of the dark colored clay.



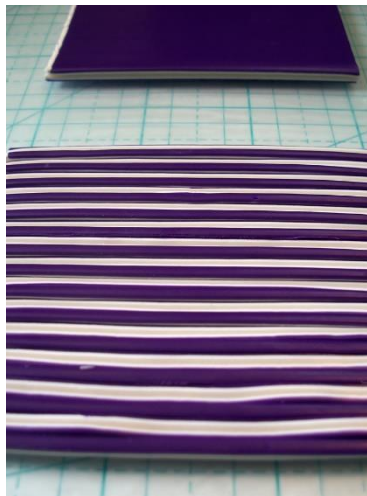
3. Create a medium width layer of the dark, light and translucent clay – approximately 3 x 4 inches.



4. Stack the 3 layers with the translucent on the top side. Run the entire stack through the pasta machine at its widest setting. Cut the strip in half.



5. Stack the 2 pieces on top of each other with the translucent layer in the middle. Run the stack through the pasta machine again on the widest setting.



6. Position the strip directly in front of you and cut strips that are equal to the width of the stack of clay. Position the first strip with dark side up. The next strip should be turned on it's side and tucked in beside the first strip. Repeat this procedure until you have a strip that is long enough to wrap around the entire teardrop shaped cane.



7. To heal the seams when joining strips, it's easiest to put a piece of parchment paper on top of the clay strips and smooth the seam away with another

piece of paper on top of it. Gently. You just want to meld all the strips into a sheet so it's easy to wrap around the cane.



8. Carefully wrap the basketweave strips around the teardrop cane starting at the point. Make sure the tip ends up with alternate strips. Wrap entire cane in a layer of dark clay that is the thinnest on your pasta machine. Carefully smooth out the seam of the clay.

9. The cane will be very gushy at this stage and needs to be set aside before slicing. If you decide to leech any of the moisture out of it, don't remove too much or the slices will be hard to work with.

Once you get your design put together it's time to make something from it – have fun!

