



another angle

with Angela Thompson

Jellyfish Mixed Media Panel

on behalf of tinypandora.com

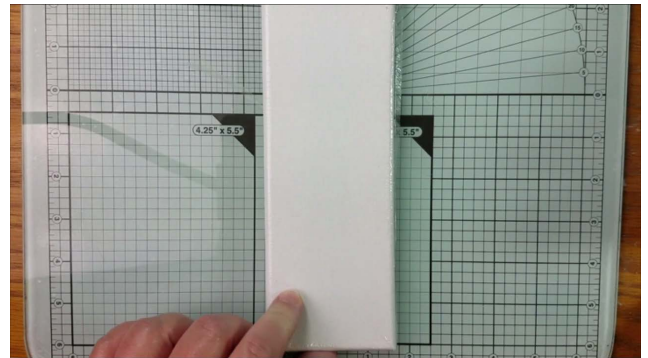


You will need the following supplies:

- * About 3 oz total of polymer clay in your choice of colors and brand. I'm working with Premo.
- * Small amount of scrap clay formed into a sheet on a thin setting
- * Three to four shades of blue acrylic paint
- * Canvas or Panel of your choice
- * Mica powder, chalks and/or paint for detailing
- * 2 glass or ceramic tiles
- * Paper or paper towels to cover work surface
- * Pasta machine, blade, texture sponge, your favorite tools, Oven
- * Sea sponge or other small sponge
- * Gorilla Glue, Weldbond or your favorite strong glue
- * Color Me Psychedelic Jellyfish kit from tinyandora.com
- * Deep Shine (from tinyandora.com)
- * Lisa Pavelka Magic-Glos (available at tinyandora.com)

NOTE: The techniques that I'm using are common within the Polymer clay industry. The techniques are not my own but the design and application is. For instruction on making a skinner blend I recommend Jessama Tutorials on Youtube. I use an altered plug cane in this video and recommend either Yonat Dasalu on Youtube or Saffron Addict on Etsy for tutorials that delve into making these. I will explain in general terms, but not in depth.

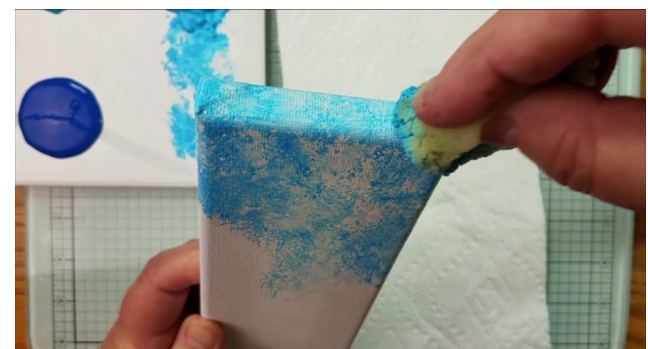
Decide what you'll use as a base.



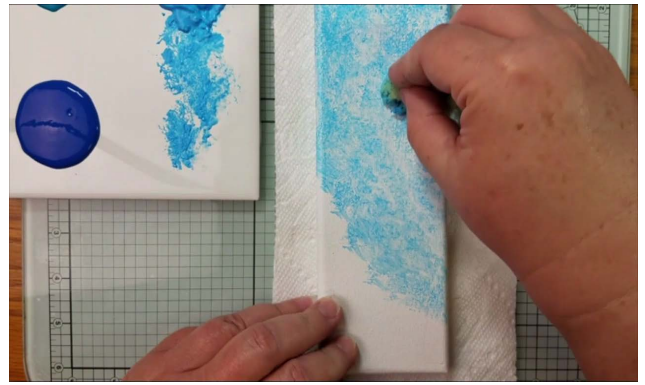
Select your colors of paint.



Use a sea sponge and the lightest color to start building up your foundation. Work with a damp sponge and dab the paint onto the canvas. Be sure to do the edges if you are not framing.



Continue to work the lightest color down about 2/3 of the canvas or panel. Allow to dry.



Using the two tiles or pieces of glass lay a couple thin lines of your darkest paint color onto one of them.



Spread the paint evenly across the tile/glass and then cover with the other. Press the two panes of glass or tiles together. You want to press all around to encourage the paint to spread out. If you want thick fractures, use a thicker coating of paint.



Gently start prying the glass/tile panes apart. Expect resistance and use steady, even pressure to separate them. The paint will fracture as they separate and form the shapes we'll use as background barnacle or coral. Be careful not to touch the paint and don't let the panes snap back together. Please be careful that you don't break the glass and hurt yourself!!!



Using a thin strip of your sheet of scrap clay, lay it down gently across the paint. Tap it lightly but do not allow it to move up and down on the glass. Gently peel it off using a straight up and back motion. The clay will pick up the paint, maintaining the fractures.



Your sheet of clay should look like this.



Gently lay the clay, paint side down, onto the panel or canvas in the area you'd like to apply the background coral. Again, do not allow it to move up and down. Just tap it gently and then lift it off. Repeat as many times as needed to build up your background.

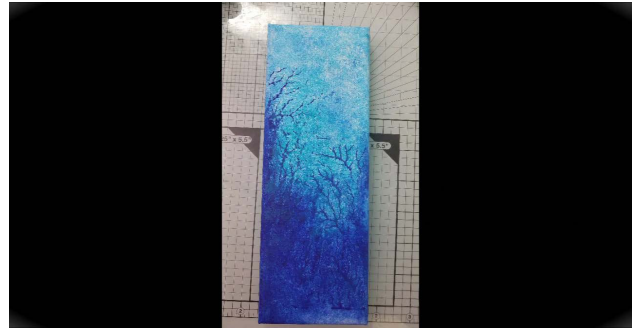


Here is my placement / coverage.

Allow this to dry before proceeding.



Paint the rest of your base. I continued using a dabbing motion with my sponge and various blues until I was happy with the canvas. Sit it aside to dry completely

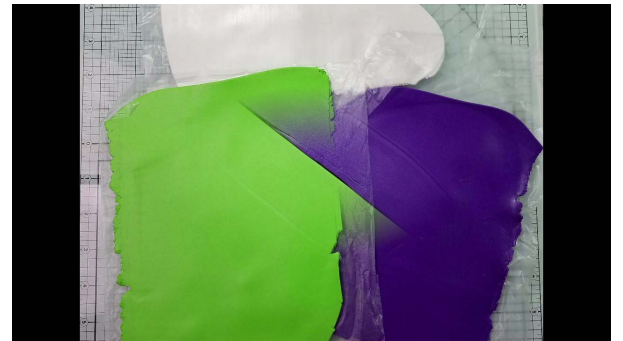


These are the tools I'll be using to complete the piece.



You will now make two skinner blends, both using the same colors but one with the addition of white.

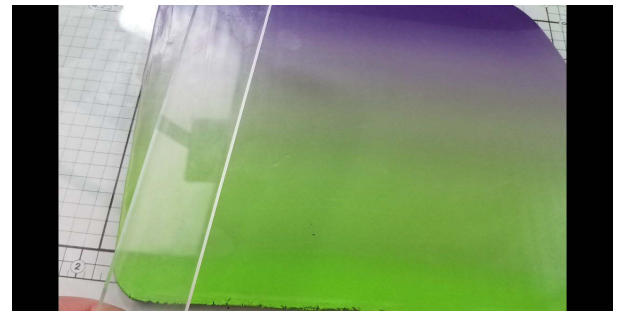
Make a traditional skinner blend with your two colors.



Now make a second skinner blend with white added as shown. This will "brighten" the second blend.

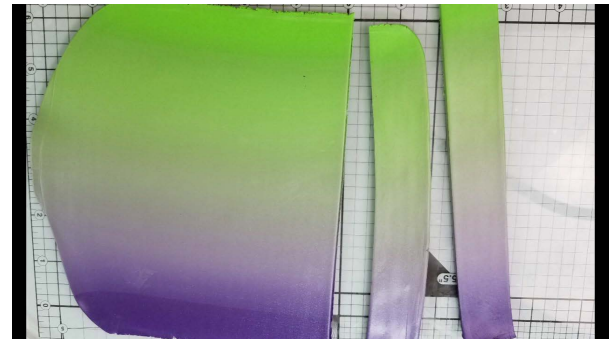


Working from the bottom of your blends, lay the tinypandora 1 inch template across the blend, in a direction that picks up all the colors.



Cut two strips.

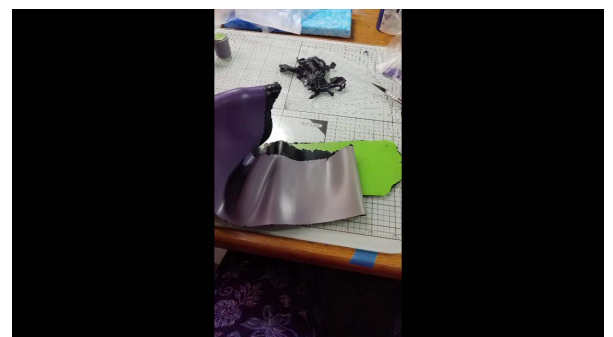
Roll these two strips into a bullseye cane, one rolled light to dark, the other dark to light. On my canes, I rolled one from the purple end, and one from the green end.



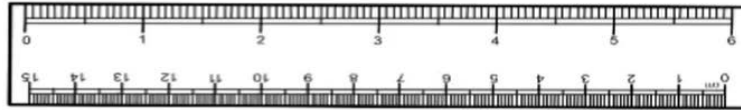
Now fold the rest of your skinner blend and feed it through your pasta machine on a med thin setting.



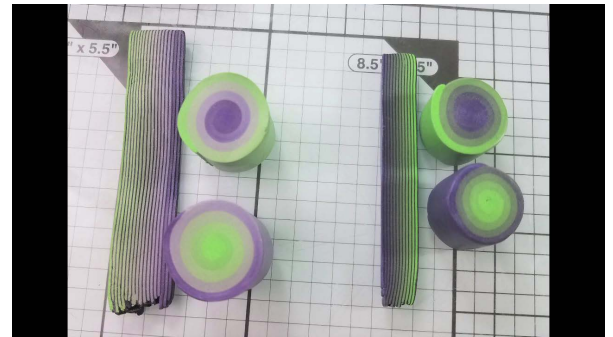
Take your long strip and apply a thin layer of black, then run it through your pasta machine again, long way, on a med thin setting.



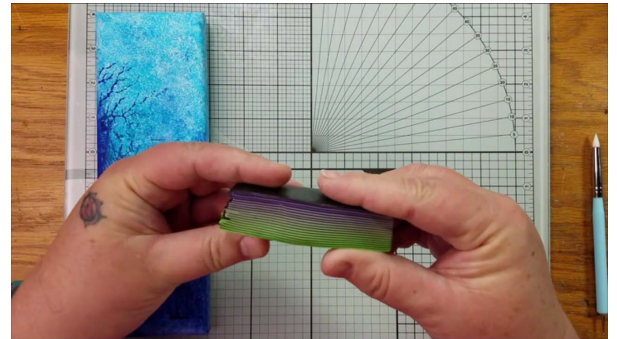
To make the altered cane, you will cut it in three inch sections and stack those sections on top of each other, making sure that the black is always on top. Do this for the full strip.



You should end up with canes similar to these. Note the canes on the left are the set with the white added and the set on the right are just the two base colors.

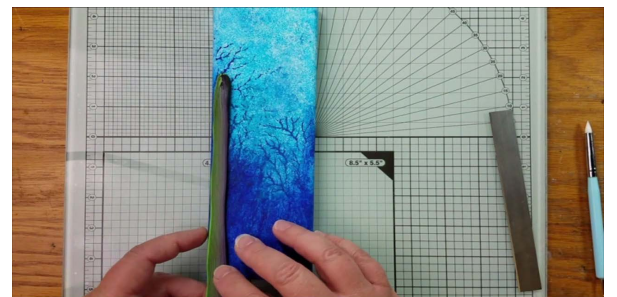


Take one of your plug canes and cut off a section about a quarter inch thick, lengthwise.



Using your fingers or a roller, work this section out into a long, thin strip. You'll need two - three pieces of sea grass. I use two longer pieces and one short piece in my design.

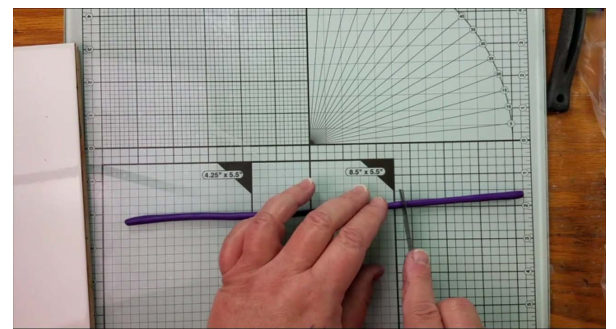
You'll likely have excess clay from this and all of the elements. Sit it aside in a "scrap" pile. We will use these scraps to make our jellyfish.



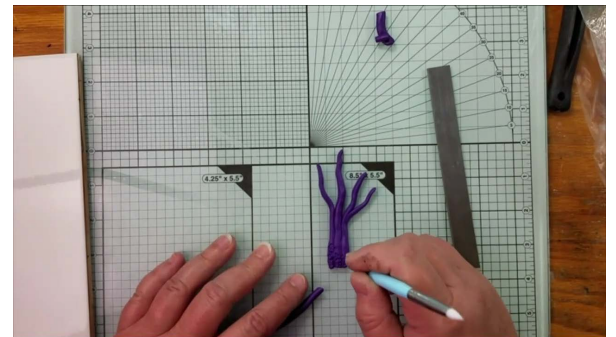
From this point I'll leave my work on a ceramic tile until it's ready to apply to the canvas. Lay out your two base sea grass in a formation that is pleasing to you. Then take some scrap and make a small base area to work the rest of the elements onto. Mine is a rough triangle. Compare it to your surface to make sure the placement is correct and the size works. Look at it from the side and bottom. I line my canvas up to compare before I proceed.



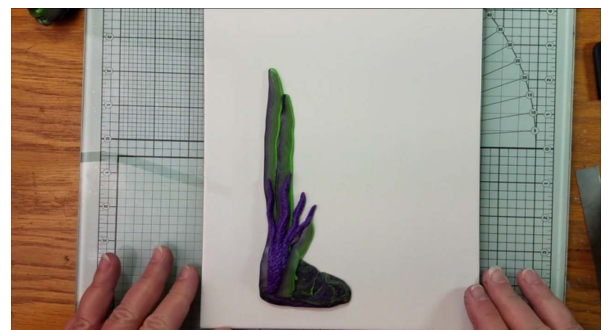
Roll out a medium thick snake. Cut sections about 3 to 3 1/2 inches long. (Note that you'll adjust all sizes to work with your canvas/panel.)



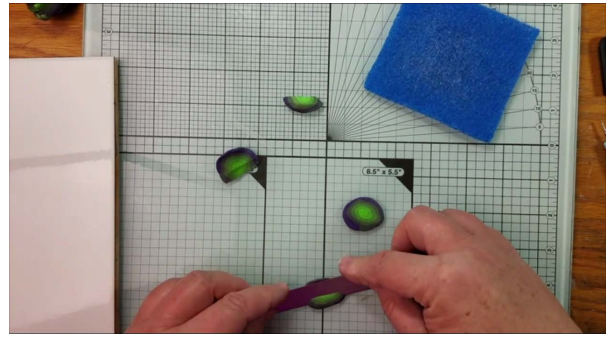
Form these sections into a coral like tree-ish structure. Blend any seams and then texture. I textured mine with a small ball tip tool.



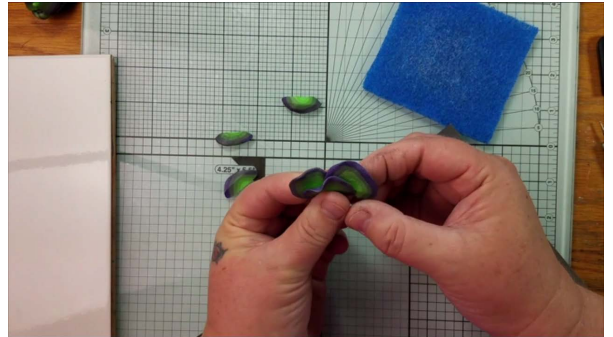
Apply this on top of the base and the sea grass.



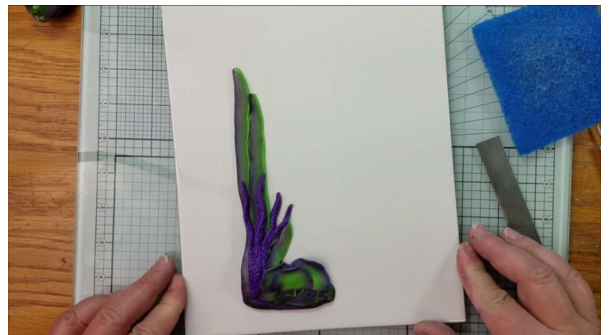
Using one of your bullseye canes, cut off three thin slices. Stretch these out with your fingers and texture with a sponge, sandpaper or toothbrush. Then slice off the bottom 1/3 of each so you have a flat bottom.



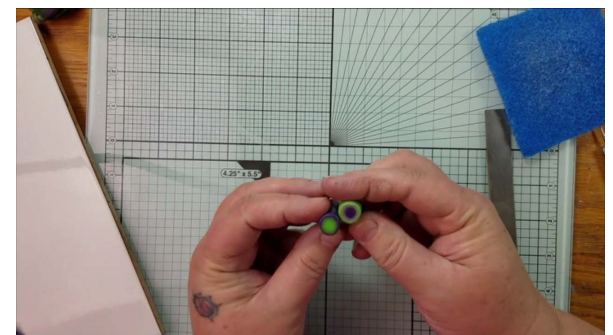
Connect two pieces together and then place the third piece centered between the other two, on top.



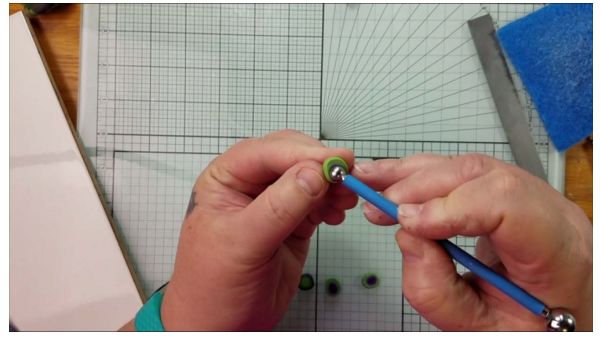
Apply to your base, as shown.



Cut a small section off your bullseye canes and reduce. Cut a few slices off each.



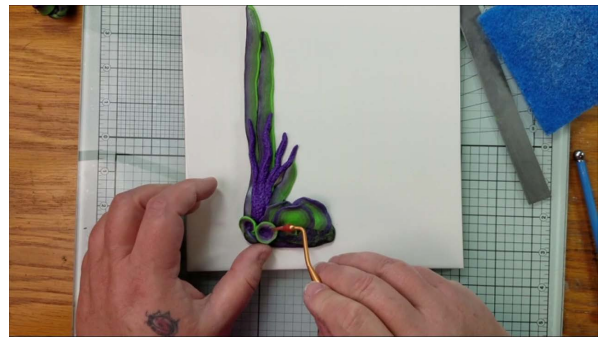
Using a large ball tool, shape the slices around the ball, to end up with rounded thinner on the edges bowls.



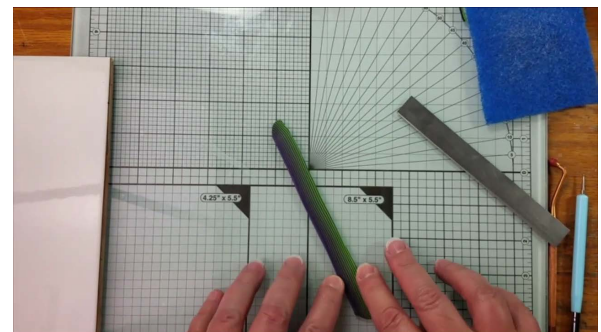
Attach the bowls to your base as desired. I filled in the area under my coral.



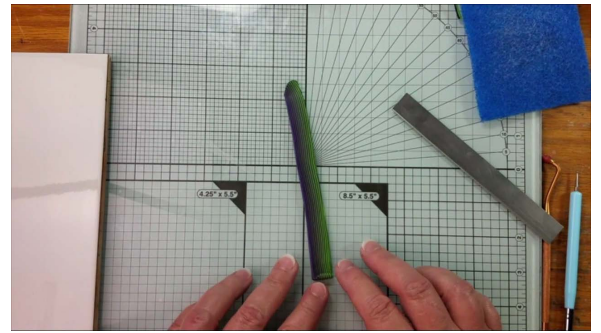
Use your favorite tool and texture a bit. We'll highlight the textured areas with paint later.



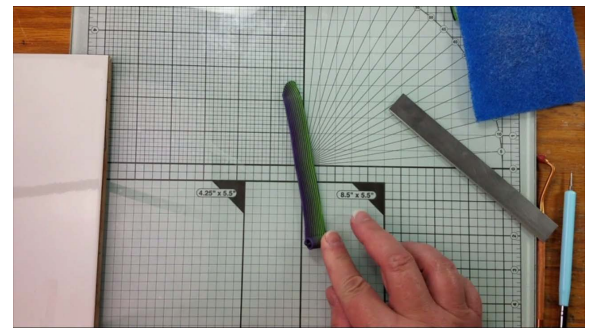
Now cut a slice about 2-3 mm thick off of one of the plug canes. Roll or warm with your hands. This piece needs to be well warmed so the clay doesn't split when you're forming it. Flatten it slightly to the work surface.



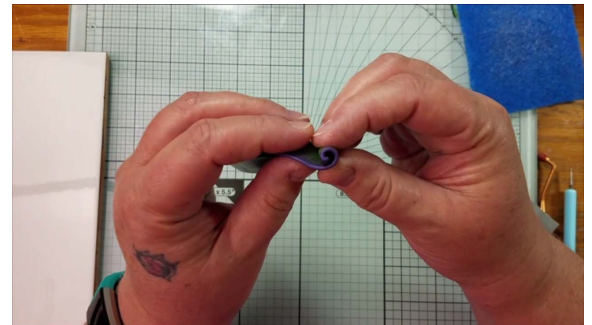
Roll it on itself for one rotation. You want a "core".



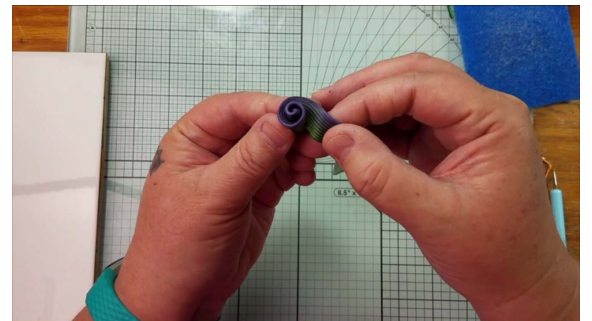
Now apply pressure only to the right side and roll it one more rotation. Then gently release it (use your blade).



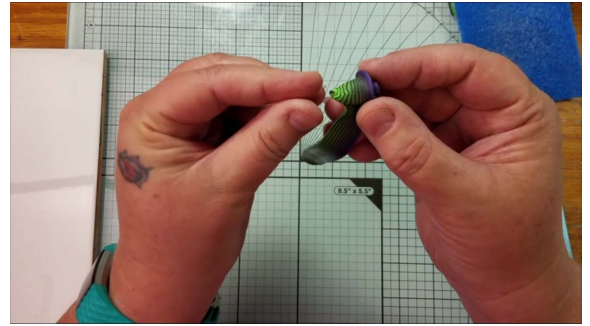
It should look like this. Now you'll continue rolling it in your fingers. You want to attach the bottom of the slice while allowing the top to splay open. The form should be a spiral and it's a bit tricky, or at least it was for me!



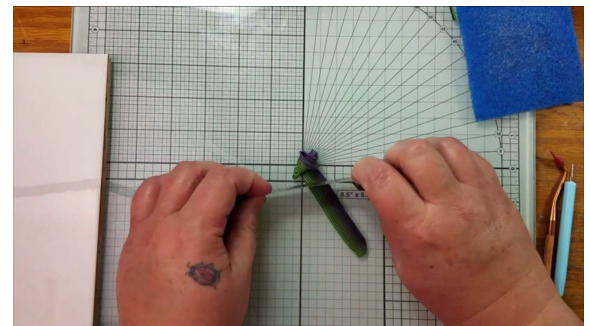
You'll only need two or three rotations, just press the bottom with your fingers and pull the bottom into a cone shape as you go.



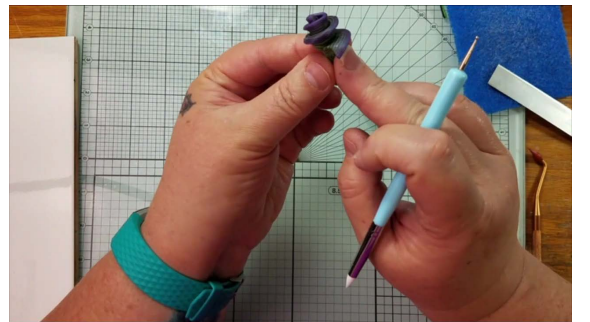
The cone should become the stem as you move down the spiral.



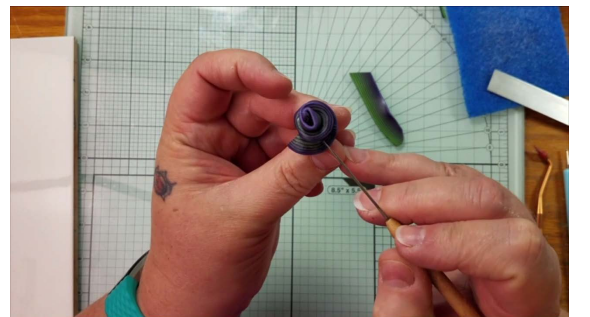
Once you have a couple rotations, trim the rest off, at an angle.



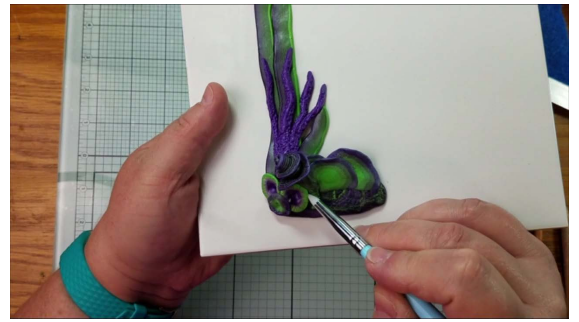
Allow the cut edge to come around and against the side, as shown.



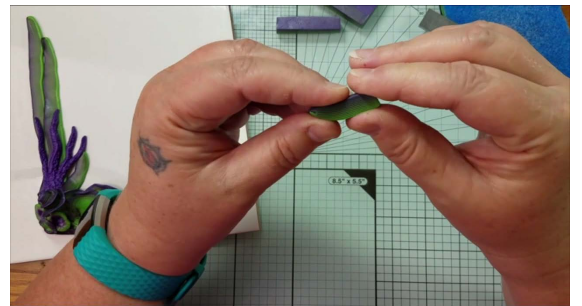
Add a bit of texture around the edges with a needle tool.



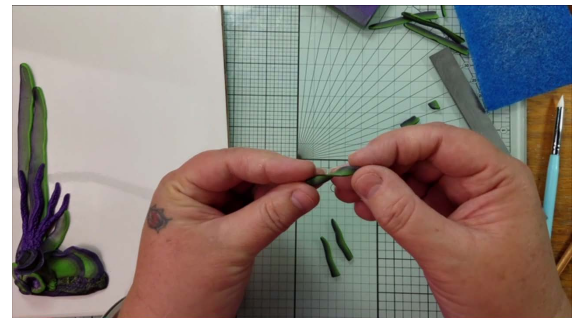
Decide where your spiral will live. I wanted mine against the base of the coral. Use the stem to attach.



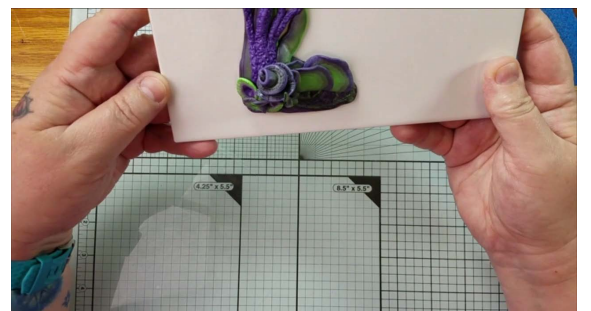
Cut a small end off of one of the plug canes and reduce it.



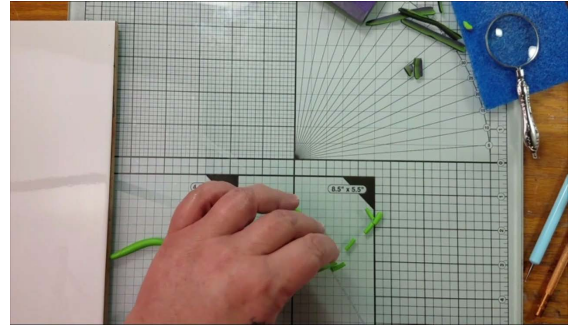
Then cut off two or three pieces of seagrass and arrange around your spiral piece. I twisted mine so there would be movement in the piece.



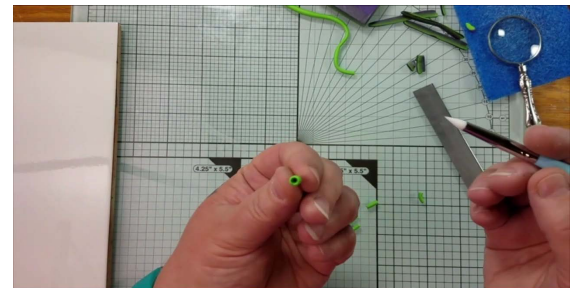
Your piece should look something like this when the seagrass is in place.



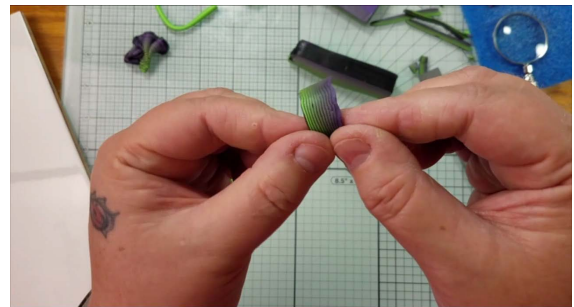
Roll out a thin snake of your lightest color. Cut off pieces about 1/3 of an inch long.



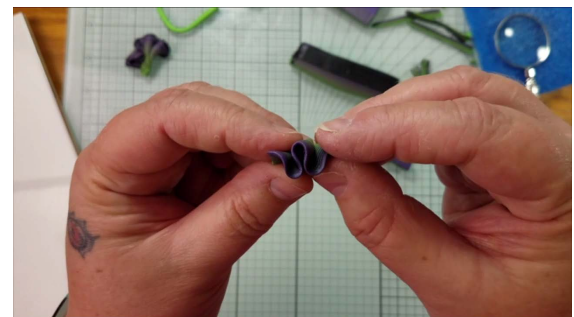
Using a pointy tool, poke one end and then twist the piece off. You should end up with a hollow pod, open on the top. Make about 10 of these. You can also make them out of bits of the canes. Your choice!



Now cut off a thin slice of the short side of a plug cane. Work this between your fingers until the top is thin and it moves easily.



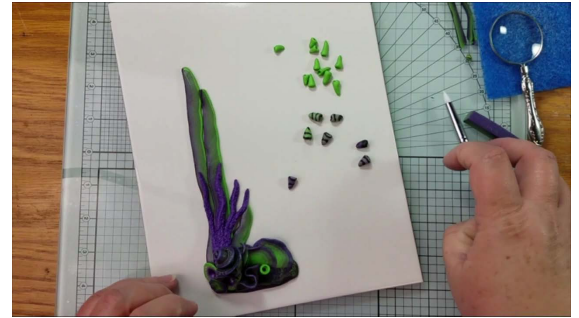
Then fan fold it into a wavy shape.



Tuck this against the base of your spiral.



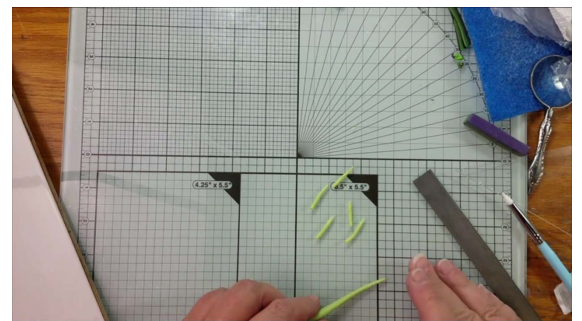
Now use the pods you made and fill in the bottom area of your base. Leave a small place clear on the right.



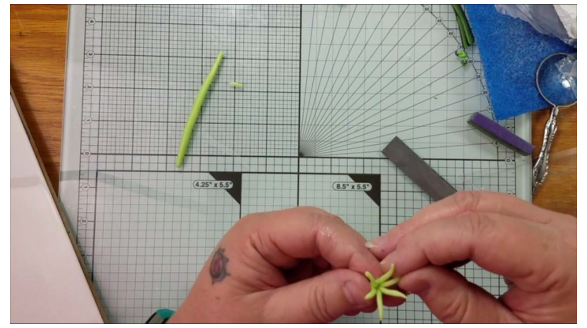
You should end up something like this.



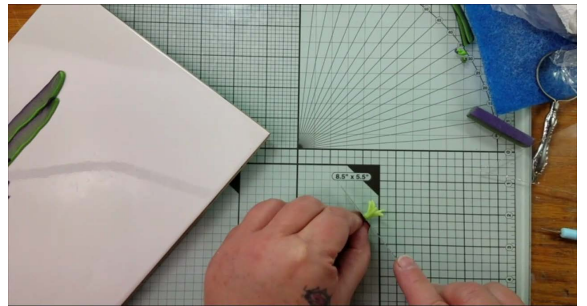
Now take a small piece of translucent clay, about the size of a dime, and mix in a tiny amount of your lightest color. Roll this into a very thin snake and cut off pieces about three quarters of an inch long. They should all have a pointy end, as shown.



Now gather all of the little pieces together and squish the ends together on only one end, allowing the other end to spread wide open. This will make a little anemone to live in our sea.



Once you've secured all the bits to each other, cut off the ends at the base.



And put it on the panel. Then roll out one more little spikey part, dip the end in a drop of liquid clay and put it in the center.

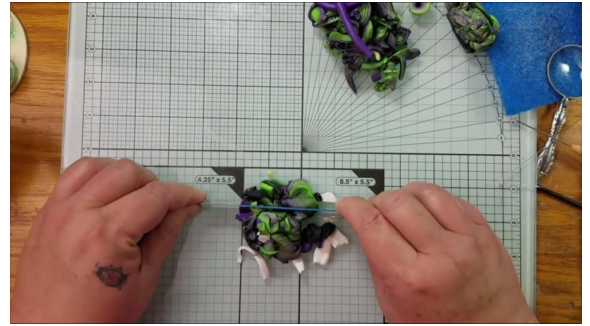


Next use pan pastels, chalks or micas and add color and accents wherever you like.

I sit mine aside until I finished the jellyfish and baked it all together. You can bake now if you like.



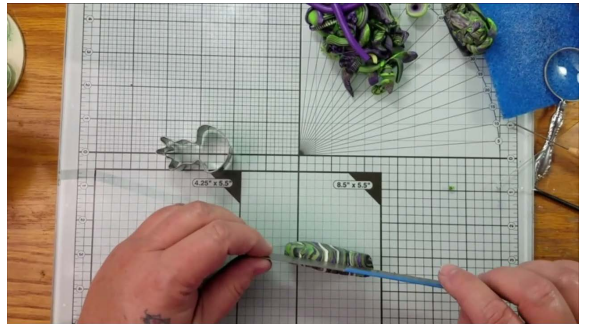
Now gather up all the bits and pieces left over.
Take a wad of them, add black and white to
provide contrast and form a Natasha bead.



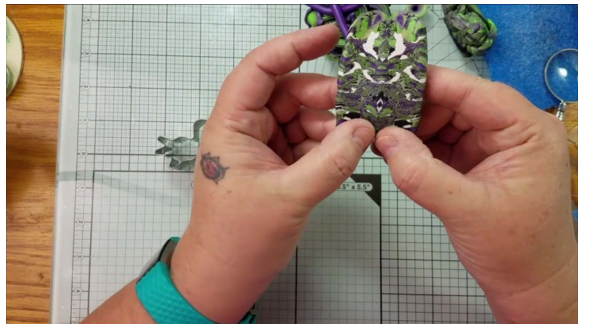
Twist, twist , twist. Then compare to the
Jellyfish cutter to ensure it's long and wide
enough. It will need to be the full length and 1/2
the width to be "big enough".



Stand on edge and slice in half.



Match your middles. Look at it from both
angles and decide which is the top.



Cover with a sheet of plastic wrap and line up your cutter and press firmly.

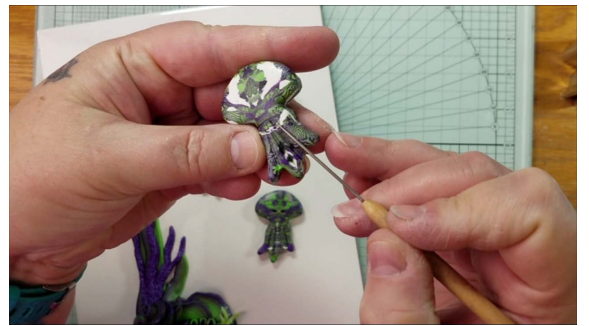
Tip: A piece of tape will easily remove the plastic film from the jellyfish.



Make as many jellyfish as you'd like to live in your seascape.



I wanted to have more definition so I used a needle tool and pressed in lines to separate the tentacles.



Fill in the tentacle lines with black chalk now or you can use paint after it's cured.





Bake both the jellyfish and the sea base at recommended temperature for one hour. Allow to cool.

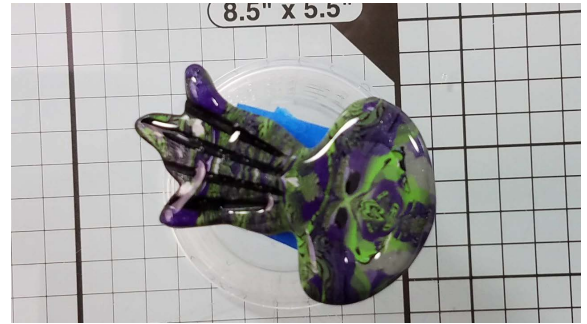
Use black painted thinned with water to do washes to fill in texture accents. Allow to dry.



Using DeepShine, coat your base piece and then cure it for 15 minutes. I prefer DeepShine on any pieces that are sculpted because of its love of curves. It's designed to work with curves and doesn't pull away before it's cured!



I used Magic Gloss on my jellyfish. Line the edges, cure for a couple minutes, then fill in, using a toothpick to pull the resin over the cured area. Don't forget to fill in your tentacle lines if you haven't already!



Once your pieces are cured, glue them to your panel or canvas. I prefer to use Gorilla Super Glue gel formula.



I hope you've enjoyed this tutorial! Make sure to watch the accompanying video on the Studio Cryptique YouTube channel to see each of these steps in more detail.

You can find me hanging around in HOP (Hooked on Polymer, Facebook), or visit my Facebook art page -- [AngelasArtShop](#), or email me at AngelaDoesArt@gmail.com.

See you soon!