another angle
with Angela Thompson

Liquid Geode Coaster

on behalf of tinypandora.com
You will need the following supplies:

- Liquid Sculpey Clear (Kato clear not recommended for this project)
- Kato’s liquid clay in your choice of color AND/OR
- Alcohol ink(s) in your choice of color
- Tiny Treasures kit from tiny pandora.com and/or inclusions of your choice
- Gold, silver or other metal sheets in your choice of color OR mica powders (Pearlex, etc) in your choice of color
- Glass glitter or coarse glitter in antique gold or your choice of color
- Twin blade strip cutter
- Ceramic tile (4 or 6 inch square)
- Cutting surface with 10 inches of length
- Pasta machine (or roller)
- Exacto knife or like cutting tool
- Smoothing tool
- Oven WITH oven thermometer
- Heat gun **optional**
- Needle nose tweezers or like
- Small mixing cups/bowls
- Craft stick/ makeup spatula, etc
- Toothpick/needle tool/ skewer or like
- Alcohol wipes or paper towels
- Premo polymer clay (or your brand of professional clay) , 2 oz or less
  in the following colors:
  - 18k Gold
  - Black or graphite pearl
  - White and/or pearl (I use a mix of 50/50)
  - Color of your choice to coordinate with your chosen scheme (I used blue pearl)

Note: This project uses approximately ⅓ a bottle (less than 1 oz) of liquid clay for a coaster approx. 3 ½ inches round. You may use more or less, depending upon your size project.
Condition and prepare the following:

- A four inch square (4” by 4”) of your white/pearl color on a medium thickness (4 on a 8 setting dial machine, 4-5 on a 9 setting dial machine)
- A one and a half inch by eight and one-eighth inch (1 ½” x 8 ⅛”) strip of your white/pearl color on a thin setting (2nd or 3rd thinnest setting)
- A two inch by ten inch (2” x 10”) strip of the gold color, on a thick setting (2 down from thickest)
- A one and a half by four inch (1 ½” x 4”) strip of each color on your thickest setting:
  - Black or graphite pearl
  - Gold or your metal color
  - White/pearl color
  - Your chosen color

Prepared strips of color (minus the gold- it’s another step)

Step One:
Wrap your strip of black with the long, thin strip of white.
Step Two:
Run this wrapped strip through your machine on your thickest setting. Trim resulting strip back to four inches in length. Set aside the remainder. We will not use it.

Step Three:
Stack your gold (metal) strip and the wrapped black strip and run through your pasta machine on your thickest setting.

Step Four:
Stack your chosen color strip and the white/pearl strip as you did with the black/gold and run through your machine on your thickest setting. You will now have two longer strips.

Step Five:
Stack those strips as shown, keeping your two darker colors and your two lighter colors alternated. I combined the wrapped black/gold into a strip and the blue/white into a strip. The below image shows the wrapped black/gold strip and the blue/white strip. The wrapped black is on top, the gold is the reverse of that strip, then the blue and the white/pearl color is the reverse of that strip. It’s important that the colors are alternated to provide the distinction we need. Black tends to “get lost”, so wrap it with the lightest color.

Step Six:
Run the combined strip through your pasta machine on the thickest setting. You should end up with a strip about three inches wide and ten inches long. Lay this strip on your cutting surface and lightly press it to secure.
Step Seven:
Using your strip cutter, cut a strip going lengthwise. Once cut, lift up carefully so as not to stretch or tear the strip. The now exposed sides will make the walls of your geode.

The width of your strip will be the depth of your geode. If you are using RJCrafts magnet/razor gadget, use two magnets. (Tip: A small thin snake of clay glued right under the top gripy part of the razer works wonders for keeping the magnets in place.) For other type strip cutters, set your blades about 3/16 apart. Alternative: If you do not have a blade cutter, use a ruler and your exacto knife. You want the strips to be as close to the same width as you can make them.

Step Eight:
Place your 4 inch square of white/pearl on your 4 or 6 inch tile. Smooth to secure and remove any trapped air. Using your exacto knife or blade, cut out your coaster shape. Cut out a circle, oval or square, whichever you prefer.

Step Nine:
Take one of the strips and go along the outer edge of your geode shape, pressing very lightly to secure. Make sure your strip is lined side up, so that you can see the stripes.
I suggest that you cut the strips at an angle as show when you join the two ends together. Tilt the strip onto its side and then slice at an angle. This will join the two ends in a neat and smooth way, allowing minimal distortion. Lightly smooth the clay in the direction of your stripes.

Step Ten:
Continue adding your strips to your base geode, working from the outside in, forming your inner rings/walls. Cut all strips as indicated above, smoothing each joint as you go. You’ll want two to three inner rings and then a small ovalish shape in the center for your core. Leave space between your rings as shown. Set aside.

Step Eleven:
Using your long metal tone strip, apply either your metal sheeting or your mica power.
Step Twelve:
Adjust your strip cutter to a width that includes the base geode and the walls. The height of the geode, from the base of the tile to the top of the walls is the measurement you need. If you’re using the RJCrafts cutter, adding one magnet should work. If you’re using a ruler, you should be in the area of 1/4 inch thick. Cut one long strip and wrap that strip around the outside wall of your geode. Trim with a straight cut and smooth joint.

![Image of strip cutter wrapping around a geode]

Step Thirteen:
Make any needed adjustment to the geode base to close any gaps and then bake at the manufacturer’s recommended temperature for 30 minutes and let cool. Do not remove the geode from the ceramic tile.

A few baking tips:
* Line your oven with ceramic tiles.
* Cover the top of your oven with ceramic tiles. (Don’t block vents.)
* Bake on a marble or stone slab. This will help hold your temperature steady.
* Use the convection option if you have it.
* Use one or more oven thermometers and monitor for heat spikes.
* Cover your project with an aluminum pan or tent with foil. This is especially important when baking liquid clay.

A note on working with Liquid Clay:
Liquid clay is liquid, it will move on you. It develops a thinner consistency when heated before it starts to cure. Make sure that both your oven and your work surface are level. I also recommend tenting anytime you work with liquid clay to prevent scorching.
Step Fourteen:
Make two to three colors of liquid clay for your geode. You can either use Kato's colored liquid clay or make your own using alcohol ink and the Sculpey Liquid Clear. I've used both in my project.

To make your own, pour a small amount (2 to 3 mm) of Sculpey Liquid Clear into your cup or bowl. Add drops of alcohol ink to reach your chosen color level. The more alcohol ink you add, the deeper/darker your color will be. I used 8-9 drops of alcohol ink to reach a medium level of blue. Allow to sit a couple seconds for the alcohol to evaporate and then mix thoroughly. Repeat this step with each color.

Next you need to make a "sparkle" mix to add a bit of zing to your geode. Again, start with 2 to 3 mm of Sculpey Liquid Clear in a cup/bowl. Add your inclusions to this cup and combine thoroughly. I used the ultra fine white glitter and the white mylar shavings from my Tiny Treasures kit and Christi Friesen's "Reflections". You can use any inclusions you like. Always stir your mixes again before using. Sometimes they settle.

Step Fifteen:
Start with your first color and add a thin layer to the outside ring of your geode. Pop any air bubbles and use a toothpick or like to work the color all the way to the walls on either side of the channel. Other than tweaks, this is the only layer of color you'll add.

Continue by adding your second color to the next ring. Again, work it fully to the edges and pop any air bubbles. You should be using enough clay to completely cover the base only. All of the liquid clay will be applied in thin layers to achieve the effect of depth.

Turn your geode and look at it from all angles to ensure that you haven't left any of the base visible.
Step Sixteen:
You will be adding some interest to your color at this point by adding inclusions. You can add any type of inclusion you like, glitter, beads, rocks, mylar, etc. I added a bit of dark blue glitter and some of the blue mylar shavings. Both were from vials within the Tiny Treasures kit.

Think about the effect you'd like to achieve. Add inclusions to some areas but leave some areas alone. Some inclusions will sink, others will float on top. Both will be marvelous!

Items with reflective dimensions (think rhinestones) don't usually make for good inclusions. They lose their dimensions and show through as flat round discs. Save those for other uses.

I've circled the areas where I added the inclusions. Small amounts go a long way!

I wanted to allow some of my base to come through on the next ring. To do this, I put a line of Sculpey Liquid Clear around the interior of the channel (the side next to the core.)

Then I worked a small amount of my colored liquid clay into the channel on the opposite side.
For the core, I added a small amount of the Sculpey Liquid Clear to act as a glue and filled the core with glass glitter in Antique Gold. I then put another couple drops of the Sculpey Liquid Clear on top and sprinkled in a bit of coarse gold glitter. You can fill your core with glitter, rocks, beads, whatever you fancy!

Step Seventeen:
Bake for up to 30 minutes at 325. Cover or tent with foil. Check after 15 minutes, then check every five minutes. The bake time is dependent upon how thick your layer of liquid clay is. The clay will turn translucent when cured. We’re also going to bake several times, so the clarity will increase with each bake. Always allow your geode to cool completely before moving on.

Below is my geode after the first layer of liquid clay has cured.
Step Eighteen:
Cover all rings of your geode with a layer of Sculpey Liquid Clear. This should be a thin layer but thick enough to cover it so it looks something like this.

Next, use your sparkle medium (stir first) and add some swishes of the medium to the geode. The arrows indicate where I applied the sparkle medium. It's hard to see now but will pop later.

Now select some additional inclusions and using your photo as a guide, apply more pops of color or added interest. I used a medium blue glitter, a light blue glitter and blue mylar shavings from my Tiny Treasures kit.
I also decided to add a few black micro beads to the inner most ring. I want to add inclusions to that area later and thought they would add some depth. Add another drop of the Sculpey Liquid Clear to the core and add a bit more of your chosen material if desired.

Bake for up to 30 minutes at 325. Cover or tent with foil. Check after 15 minutes, then check every five minutes. The bake time is dependent upon how thick your layer of liquid clay is. The clay will turn translucent when cured. We’re also going to bake several times, so the clarity will increase with each bake. Always allow your geode to cool completely before moving on.

Below is my geode after the second layer of liquid clay has cured.
Notice how the two layers have stacked, with the inclusions from the bottom layer visible through the layer just applied. Take another picture of your geode for reference!

**Tip:** Wipe the geode with an alcohol wipe between bakes to get an idea of what it will look like once you’ve finished it with resin or other top coat. Allow to dry before continuing.

Step Nineteen:
Fill the geode again with Sculpey Liquid Clear. If your geode is already at the top of the walls, skip this step. It depends on your wall heights and the amount of liquid clay you used in prior levels. Use enough of the clear liquid to bring each channel up to the top of the walls. You can also add additional inclusions.

Bake for up to 30 minutes at 325. Cover or tent with foil. Check after 15 minutes, then check every five minutes. The bake time is dependent upon how thick your layer of liquid clay is. The clay will turn translucent when cured. We’re also going to bake several times, so the clarity will increase with each bake. Always allow your geode to cool completely before moving on.
Step Twenty:
Now it's time to make any adjustments to our final geode. I wanted to add a bit more zing to my innermost circle.

I had four bottles in my Tiny Treasures kit that were filled with a variety of inclusions. To better see, I dumped them out! I then applied a wee bit of Sculpey Liquid Clear on the area where I wanted to add them and applied the inclusions.

I also wanted to tweak a couple of areas of my geode. I used the appropriate color of liquid clay and added a bit more of the glitter, followed by a few more swishes of the sparkle medium.

After you make any tweaks you'd like, cure your geode for 10 minutes at the 325, tented, to allow the new clay to set. It doesn't need to cure completely at this stage.

Alternately, you can use a heat gun to set the clay.
This is how my geode looked after setting the liquid clay.

After your geode has cooled completely, apply a heavy layer of Sculpey Liquid Clear. Work the liquid clay to the edge with a soft bristle brush. Try not to allow the clay to bleed over the edges. After you’ve coated the geode, allow it to rest a couple minutes. The liquid clay will self level. Then bake for 30 minutes, tented, at 325 and allow to cool.

Repeat as necessary to achieve a flat, smooth surface. This process can take two to three applications.

If you wish to apply a decorative back to your geode, do so after you’ve applied the final layer of liquid clay and cured for a full 30 minutes at 325. You can then bake as needed to apply a backing.
I chose to finish my back with a metallic gold paint and then applied small footers after the first coat of resin. I baked the footers separately and glued them on.

A note on resins:

Resin can cause a "drawing up" component with polymer clay and if you finish your piece with resin it's likely to develop a slight curve. My suggestion is to apply footers and then apply a second coat of resin. Allow the resin to rest a couple minutes and it will self level, filling the curvature and resulting in a smooth, flat surface. Follow all manufacture's safety precautions.

If you decide to make a smaller geode, consider reducing the size of your lines by using a thinner setting on your machine.

I hope that you’ve enjoyed this unique project and I’d love to see yours! Please post a picture in HOP! I can be reached via email at AngelaDoesArt@gmail.com or find me on Facebook at Angela’s Art Shop.