another angle
with Angela Thompson

"Wood" You
Be Mine?

On behalf of tinypandora.com
You can use any colors you like to make the wood grain. You could even make fantasy colored woods using shades of your favorite colors! I bet grains of purple would be gorgeous!

To the right are a couple of wood tones. I’ll be using the top recipe.

Prepare your wood grain mixes. You'll need three to four shades plus your core. You should mix a larger amount for the core (about 1/3 of a package) and smaller amounts for the others. (about 1/4 package).

Roll your core color into a thick log, about 3 inches long by half an inch thick. Roll the other colors into long thin ropes, then cut two sections of each color the same length as your core.
Place the thin snakes against the core, alternating colors light to dark. I put my sections opposite each other so I have one of each color on each side of the log.

Roll the log until smooth and reduced into a longer log, roughly 10 inches long. Then fold the log, roll and reduce or fold and stretch, several times until you get a streaked grain look. It’s important to not twist as you do this process. Keep the lines as straight as you can.

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Once you have a grain look you like, either roll the long log out with your roller or run it lengthwise through your pasta machine on the thickest setting.
Lay your strip out on your work surface and decide which areas you like. Don’t forget to look at the reverse side!

Piece together enough sections of your strip to make a piece big enough for your cutter.

Cover with plastic and smooth until all the pieces are joined.

Once smoothed, leave the plastic in place and cut out your heart. (hmm, that could be taken wrong)
Use your blade and carefully remove for your work surface. (If you're working on a tile, skip this step, you're already there!)

Place onto a tile and cover with plastic, then smooth and press lightly. We want the heart adhered to the tile.

Use the smaller heart cutter and cut of a section.

Then use a blade to gently lift the cutout out of the heart.

Smooth interior edges.
Using the small cutter again, cut off about a 1/4 of the top of the heart and then place it back into the cut out area. We want to leave a small open area of about 1/8 an inch. Smooth and adjust edges as needed to maintain the original outer shape.

Bake at manufactures recommended temperature for 30 minutes.

Allow to cool. Do not detach from tile. Use a small piece of painter’s tape to block the opening. Adhere to the tile and to the edges of the heart. This will stop the liquid clay from running out when you fill it.

Fill the opening with liquid clay. You can use any liquid clay. I’ve tinted Sculpey clear with alcohol ink here. Other examples on the cover show other options, like the Sculpey liquid Gold and the primary Red from the Sculpey liquid line.

Bake at manufactures recommended temperature for 30 minutes.

Once cool, you may need to trim off excess liquid clay that the tape didn’t stop. Just use your exacto knife and trim as close to the edge as you can.
Now use the remainder of your "wood" and roll it out to make a backing for your piece using the same cutter.

Choose one of your colors and roll out a long thin strip on a medium setting. Use your strip cutter to cut a strip to wrap the edge.

Use a drop of glue and secure your bail to the back.

Apply a thin coating of liquid clay and attach your back.

Add a wee bit of liquid clay to the edges and wrap your strip around the pendant, smoothing around the bail.
Texture the edges and the reverse. Trim and do any clean up needed, then bake for the final time for 30 minutes.

Finish with Magi Gloss UV resin. You might find it easier to do the edge and cure for three minutes, then do the final fill, pulling the resin over the edges to create a smooth, even finish.

This is my finished piece.

I hope you’ve enjoyed this tutorial! Make sure to watch the accompanying video on the Tiny Pandora Design Team 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.