Foil Technique for Polymer Clay

By Priscilla Magaardan Andrews

For: Tinypandora.com

Prairie Parlor
Bold, Organic Jewelry and Fine Art from the Nebraska Sandhills

Tiny Pandora Crafting Boutique
Unusual Things for Unusual People
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For this project, you will need the following supplies:

- Alcohol Inks of all colors
- Alcohol Blending Solution or Isopropyl Alcohol
- A deep texture sheet, and black polymer clay rolled out on the thickest setting, or you can use black clay rolled out to a #4 setting on your pasta machine and rolled on scrap clay, as I did here.
- Metal leaf in your choice of color (I used silver)
- Glitter in your choice of color (I used silver holographic glitter)
- and, a paintbrush

Trim your clay to the size of your texture sheet.

Press your texture sheet firmly into the clay. If your impression is not clear in places, reposition your texture sheet to make sure you have uniform impressions in the clay.

When you have your sheet uniformly imprinted with your texture sheet, select the darkest colors of ink you have (usually red, dark blue or brown) and let’s get started making a mess!

Place the ink of your dark color into the impressions made by your texture plate.

Press the ink around with your brush if you want to.

Keep adding colors in order of darkest to lightest (save any pearl colors for last, if you have them.) Dab the high surface areas occasionally with a paper towel so you can add more colors without having them mixing.

Let the ink dry some between adding colors so they don’t blend into a dark mess. Keep adding your colors, blending them with the brush or the Blending Solution as you like. Or not!
Before adding your final two or three colors. SPARINGLY sprinkle your glitter. If you put too much on, it will dominate the sheet and obscure the graffiti imprints and colors.

For my final color, I chose to spray some copper alcohol ink from a distance to get a fine spray. If you spray it closer, you can get an effect with large droplets of color. The glitter will still show through any additional ink.

I sprayed the copper metallic color on just the left side of my sheet to illustrate the effect better. Let everything dry for about an hour depending upon how much ink is on it, and get your cutters out!

(Apologies for the blurry picture)

The following examples are some things that I made with this foil sheet, and some others with different colors and effects. This pendant was made from this sheet. It has been covered with a two part resin.

If you would like a more pastel effect, like you see here, dab the foil sheet repeatedly with a paper towel when the ink is damp (not wet!) and it will leave traces of the color on the foil. Tiny Pandora Deep Shine UV resin is the finish.

This bowl was made by squishing the scraps together and putting it through the pasta machine between wax paper. It has been finished with Tiny Pandora Deep Shine UV resin.

This tile bracelet on a stretch cord is finished with Tiny Pandora UV resin. The resins give the best result on this technique. It really makes the colors pop and almost looks 3D with the “graffiti” imprints.

The second and fourth from the top pairs were finished with Minwax Varathane in a satin finish. The others have Tiny Pandora Deep Shine UV Resin.

Thank you for stopping by my Parlor, and please come back again for there are more tutorials to come!  

- Priscilla Andrews