Fall Fiesta Leaf Basket

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For: Tiny Pandora Crafting Boutique
Unusual Things for Unusual People
 Tinypandora.com
I will be showing you how to make this bowl with paper cut outs, first. This will make it easier to understand the process and plan your bowl out before you attempt it with polymer clay.

So grab your bowl, some gridded paper, a scissors and tape!

Measure the inside diameter of the bowl you will be using

Determine how many strips you want on your bowl, and divide the measurement by that number

The resulting number is how far apart you will be placing your first strips

Cut the number of strips out of the clay in the sizes you will be using. I used 10 of the largest size and 10 of the middle size for this bowl.

Lay out your strip that will line the outside of your bowl and mark the places that your vertical strips will go

Place your first piece of the largest size on any of the marks you made on the clay strip

Determine how you want the bottom of the bowl to look. I chose to make an open bottom, laying the strips around the edges of the round bottom.

Continue laying the strips on the marks on the clay edge

When you have placed all of the first row of strips, place the second row of smaller strips in the opposite direction but on the same marks.
Now that you have what you need figured out, let’s do the real thing! First, some housekeeping notes...

I used the largest and middle-sized templates from the Beads and Blends kit for my bowl. You can vary the lengths according to the depth of the bowl you make by cutting them off shorter. I used the entire length for my large bowl.

**SUPPLIES:**
- Fall colors of your choice!
- Tissue blade and exacto knife
- Extruder
- Leaf molds
- Glue

I set my machine on the second thickest setting. After you have your blends, place your template and cut out the number you need of each size.

Next, pick a color for the trim. I mixed gold, dark copper and translucent for a brassy color.

I used the medium-sized round disc in my extruder for the trim around the triangular blends.

Trim around all the edges of your blends. They will look more elegant and give the blend more structure in the bowl.

Keep the trimmings, we will use them for the leaves, later!
Using the largest, widest slit disc for your extruder, make a strip of the gold blend long enough to go around the entire inside diameter of your bowl. Make sure that the outside edge is FLUSH WITH the outside of the bowl.

Press the gold band down firmly in the inside of the bowl. Mark the inside of the bowl where you have determined your blended strips will go when you did your paper mock-up. Start placing your blended strips on those marks.

I laid down the largest strips first, making the outside of the bowl. When you are done with the first layer, place the second layer of strips down BE-SIDE the first strip, and make the angle of the strip match the angle of the first row. After you are done with all of the second strip, go back and press pieces firmly together.

Now, gather up those trimmings and make leaves with them. Use molds, or freehand if you like. I started with placing leaves around the inside of the bowl. I wanted to make it look like the leaves had just fallen in a random array. Make twice the amount of leaves you think you will need, and bake the other half.
Now we are going to place the leaves on the joints of the strips and the rim. Place at least two leaves on every place that the strips join the gold rim.

Next, take some more of that scrap clay and make little balls of contrasting color. Place the ball around the leaves and press them in with a ball tool. This will not only add more decoration, but will also help press and hold the leaves in place. Do this for the leaves on the bottom of the bowl, also.

Now we are going to make a vine that will wind its way around the top of your bowl. Take the rest of your scrap and, using the smallest hexagon shaped disc, extrude the scrap clay to at least twice the length of the inside diameter of your bowl.

Select a spot to start your vine by choosing a place where you can tuck the beginning back behind a leaf. Press the end in with your ball tool.
Start winding the vine around the bowl, making loops and twisting it decoratively. When you get to where you began, find another spot to tuck it in and use your ball tool to press the end in. Go around the bowl with your fingers and press the vine firmly to the bowl.

Bake your bowl according to the directions of the clay that you are using. After the bowl is baked, we will place the baked leaves on the outside of the supporting strips to finish off the look of the leaf bowl. I used E6000, and placed some glue in a glass bowl.

I dipped one of my rubber sculpting tools into the glue, and placed glue on the back of the leaf and on the spot of the bowl where I would be placing it. Continue to place leaves until you run out of leaves, or are satisfied with your look!

To make a base for the bowl, I took a round cutter roughly the size of the base of the original bowl, and you will need two more cutters in decreasing sizes. I made two circles out of scrap clay, since they won’t show, and the final circle out of the gold blend that I made for the bowl.
Using the smallest square disc for my extruder, I made strips to frame my circles in colors that I had used in the bowl. The middle orange strip I twisted, just for more decorations. I used the same gold on the smallest circle that I used for the circle to outline it.

I stacked the discs and baked them for 60 minutes at 275 degrees F. The clay you use may differ on baking time and temp, so make sure you follow your clay package instructions on baking.

I then applied a generous amount of E6000, and affixed the base to the bottom of the bowl.

And you are done!

I hope you enjoyed this project, and enjoy your beautiful Fall Fiesta Leaf bowl!