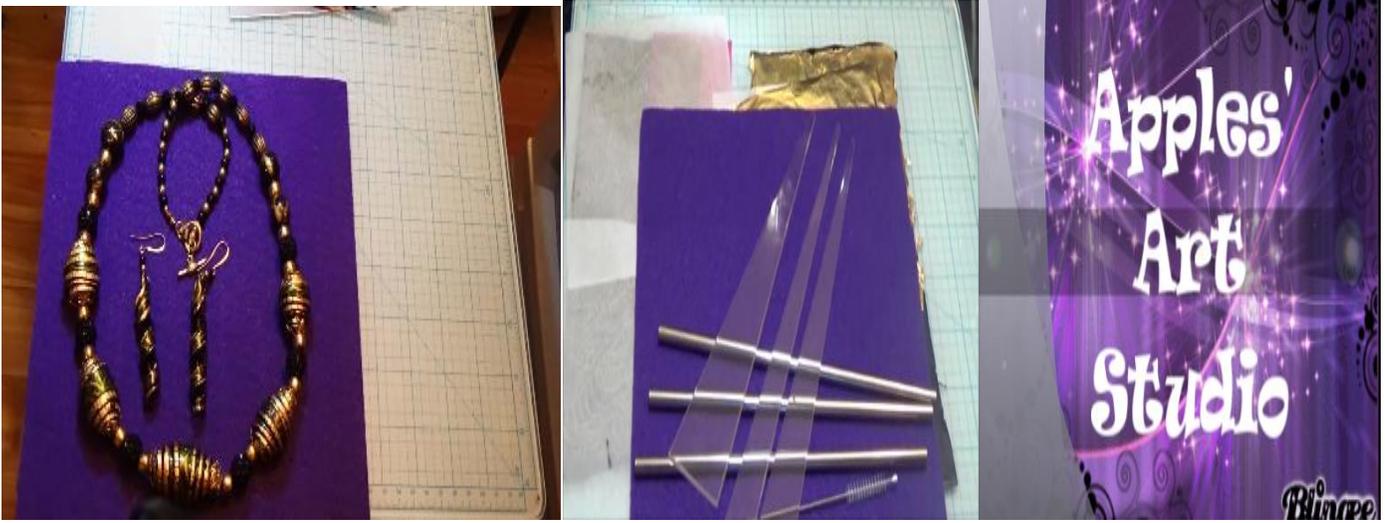


Classic Black & Gold Necklace & Earrings



This necklace & earring were made from Tiny Pandora's Beads and Blends Kit. There also are additional tips for stringing and a pair of post earrings! Presented to you, with pleasure, by Apples.



The Beads and Blends Kit comes with 3 plexiglass, long triangles, 3 metal rods, a brush for cleaning the rods and a Maxi Super Blade.

First, make a veneer! It can be made from canes, Skinner Blends, Any technique and I've chosen a Silk Screen (from Tonja's Treasures) My silk screen is on black Premo Clay, rolled out to a #3 on my Atlas. The Mica Powder I used was Solar Gold. I used a soft brush to apply the mica powder with, to make sure it gave a good crisp design. Gently pull up the silk screen, after you have the design on it, and quickly place it in warm water with dish soap in it, for cleaning.

I applied Gold Leaf to another piece of black Premo,(#3) with a soft brush. Making sure there were no air bubbles trapped under the foil. Burnish, both your mica powder and foil, rubbing your fingers over it lightly with parchment paper .



Lay the largest triangle down on the clay. Line up the straight end with the end of the clay, so that it's length wise on the clay. Start with a straight edge on your clay and you only have to make one cut. Down the long side of the triangle. Cut the other two triangles out the same way, laying the next triangle right up to the cut of the last triangle. This way, you are only having to make one cut – per triangle.

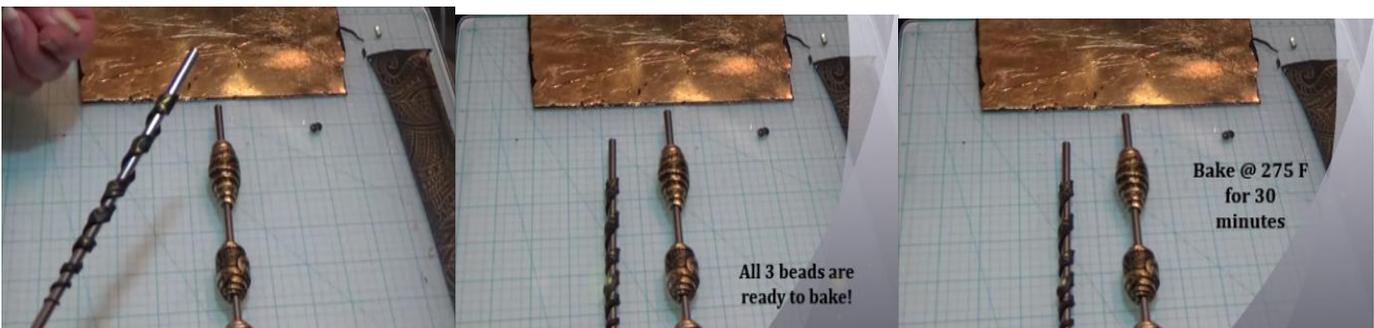


Cut 6 strips of your gold leaf length wise. I cut them about 1/8" or less, you can cut them any width your wish. These will be the gold trim on the sides of your beads, once they are rolled up.

Now, it's time to add the gold trim to both sides of each triangle. Place the gold strip beside your triangle and slightly push it, towards your triangle, making sure that it is secure. You can use the dull side of your cutting blade to do this.



Time to roll them up, forming your bead! Start with the straight end of your triangle. Press it lightly, but enough to stay on your metal rod. Start rolling your clay, making sure that your gold edge is equal on both sides. Just tight enough to get it to stick, but don't add so much pressure that it starts to disfigure the bead. Roll it until you get to the small point of the triangle. Look closely, make sure that the point of the triangle is in the center of your bead. Do this to all 3 beads. Then, Very gently, take your hand around the entire bead and roll the rod. Do this step in the AIR!!! Not on your worksurface. You just want to make sure that your bead will move freely on the rod so it won't stick to the rod during baking!



Make spiral earrings! Spiral Beads! By using scrap strips of left over clay! You also can make other shape beads, with the scraps, to add to your necklace or earrings while stringing them. Bake @ 275F (130C) for 30 minutes. Let cool completely in the oven!



As you can see in the top picture, I have all different sizes of beads on this one necklace. I used beads, decreasing in size to the very end. You use Crimp Beads, (tubes) to hold the last bead in place. Slide your crimp bead on your cord, down to the last bead, and use crimping pliers to flatten the bead. (See tutorials on this). There are also crimp bead covers that you place over the flattened crimp bead that make it look like a real bead. At the very end, you'll need something to hook your clasp to. I used flat crimp bead ends. They have two sides and a back. Like an open box with one side gone. I find it much easier to start with one side and flatten it almost all the way down. Add a drop of Gorilla Super Glue Gel – add your cord – flatten the other side down. Your cord will be secure inside this. I took flat nose pliers and pressed on the sides to make it more of a round shape and added a crimp bead cover over it. Now it looks like a bead as well. The flat crimp ends will have a hole at the top to add a jump ring in. I added 2 jump rings and a toggle clasp.



Remember your spirals that you made from scraps? You can use them as beads just by stringing them on your necklace. (If they slide around too much, add a tiny drop of Gorilla Super Glue Gel on the inside of the ends and place your cord on the glue) Or, you can make spiral earrings. I drilled a small hole in the top of the spiral, added an eye pin, a couple of little beads, made a loop and added an earring finding!

Now for shine! I used Scupley Clear Liquid Clay. Apply it with your fingers or a small brush. You can bake it in the oven. (See directions) or you can cure it with a heat gun. Be careful using the heat gun so you don't burn anything. Put your bead/earring on a wooden dowel rod, metal ones will burn you! Keep your piece moving at all times, don't hold the heat gun too close! You can watch it go from liquid, to matte, to foggy to shiny!



If you have a cord that keeps fraying when putting it through your bead holes, just get a Glue Stick. Put some glue on your fingers or your work surface. Rub the end of your cord in the glue. Twirl the cord so that it makes a point. Let it dry. Now it's like a needle. Roll out a small piece of clay, that matches the back of your earring, to the thinnest workable setting on your pasta machine. Use a cutter, that matches the shape of your earring, and cut it out. Using Bake and Bond, place your earring stud (post) where you want it on the back of your earring. Gently cover the back of your earring with the thin sheet of clay you just rolled out. The stud will poke right through it. Just be careful not to get air trapped between the layers. Lightly press the clay in place on the back of the earring. NO GLUE needed! (Most glues will NOT hold stud on the back of earring for long periods of time)



Lastly, let's talk about making holes in anything! Pendants! Earrings! Anything!

When you "push" a needle tool or toothpick, etc. in raw clay to make a hole, you are actually "pushing" the clay away from your hole. It has to go somewhere! It will either distort the hole or the top of the clay piece will puff out, around the hole. Use something to "Cut" a hole in the clay. I use a set of little round cutters. I also use coffee stirrers for small holes and regular straws for larger holes. The clay is "cut" out – your hole has clean edges and the top of your piece is smooth. With these post earrings, I used a bit larger cutter than I needed for jump rings because I wanted to add tiny, decorative gold balls in the front of my holes. This covered up the jump rings, and gave a unique look, not just a smooth surface on the top. I added jump rings, and eye pins to string my bead through.

I really hope you liked this Necklace and Earring made with Tiny Pandora's Beads and Blends Kit! I love making tutorials for the Polymer Clay Community! I love teaching!

I've been in the art field for over 50 years! I love all the possibilities using Polymer Clay, It's endless! There are just no ceilings! You dream it You can make it!

Thanks again for watching and reading! Any questions just ask me! Blessings, Apples



Where the MAGIC happens!