

Rolled Cone Beads Tutorial



Designed by Krithika Parthan

The Beaded Bazaar

Brought to you by Tiny Pandora

Rolled beads are super fun to make using polymer clay! This project will show you how you can make a pair of matched cone beads with the smallest scrap of clay. These make great earrings. Use different templates for different sizes, mix and match to make multiple earrings and experiment! You'll always get a pair of beads!

Tools and supplies

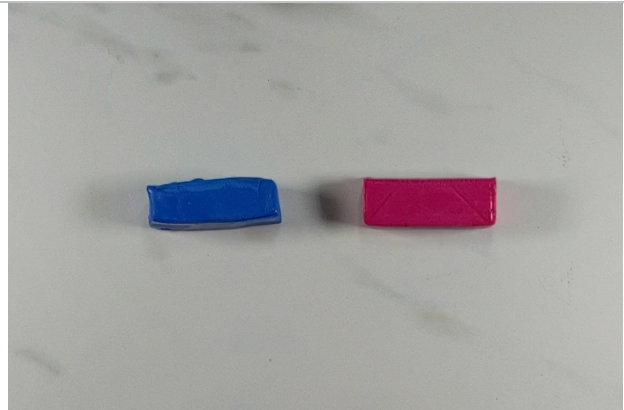
- Polymer clay veneer of choice
I used a skinner blend made with a total of 1 ounce of clay
I prefer [Premo Sculpey](#), use your professional clay of choice.
The Skinner blend shown in this tutorial was made using Cobalt Blue and Fuchsia colors.
- [Perfect Beads & Blends Kit from Tiny Pandora](#)
- [Pasta machine](#)
- Knitting needle (optional)
I like forming these beads on a narrow mandrel so I can add them to a headpin easily.
I used a double ended size 00 knitting needle from [this set](#)
- [Inka Gold](#) or [Gilders Paste](#) (optional)
Choose a color of mica powder, pastel or paste product that contrasts with your veneer.
I used [Inka Gold in Platinum](#) for this tutorial
- [Acrylic roller](#) (optional)
Helps smooth sheets of clay while blending. You can use a [cane bender](#) here.
- [Razor blade](#) (optional)
This is for cutting through cured clay. Use your tissue blade if you don't have this.
- Earring findings (optional)
If you want to make these beads into earrings, you'll need ear wires, headpins and jewelry pliers.

Instructions

Step 1:

Prep your veneer. I chose to make a Skinner blend with ½ ounce of Cobalt Blue and ¼ ounce of Fuchsia*.

*Check the [helpful links](#) for a tutorial on how to make a Skinner blend



Step 2:

Roll your sheet out to the right length and thickness you like. I like to use the full length of the template at setting #5 on my Atlas pasta machine (goes from #1 to #9).

I roll out my sheet on the full width of the pasta machine till #4. Then rotate it and roll it length-wise on #5.

Experiment with some scrap clay and see what you like! There are no hard and fast rules.

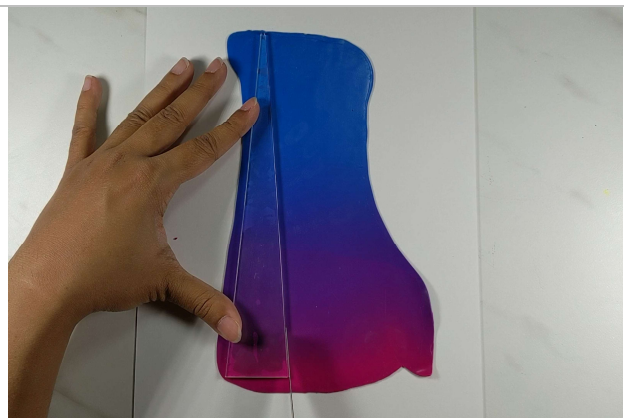


Step 3:

Place the sheet of clay on some paper for easy movement. Pick a template and line it up near the edge of the sheet. I'm using the largest template.

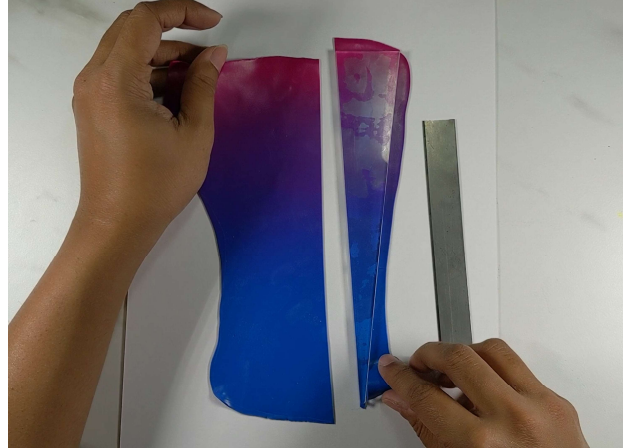
Step 4:

Use the template as a guide and use a blade to cut along the edge. I like to use the corner of a tissue blade.



Step 5:

Once the shape is cut out, carefully peel away the extra clay sheet (don't distort it, you'll get more beads out of that). Use the acrylic template to pick up the cut-out piece.



Step 6:

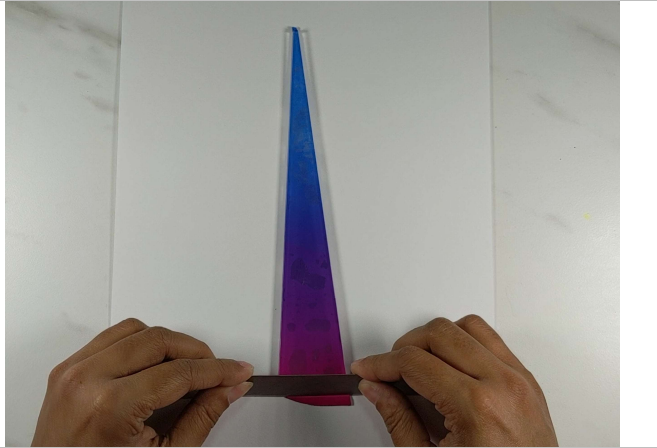
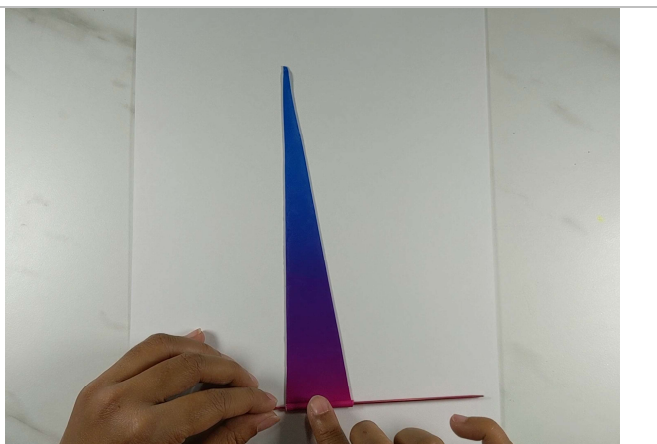
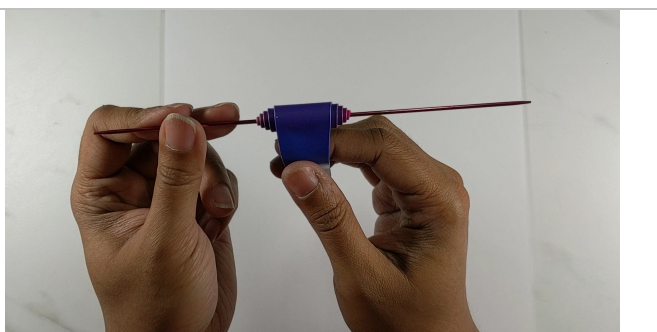
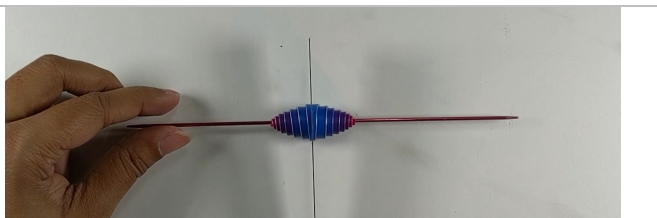
This is an optional step. Use a powder or paste product to highlight the top edge of the cut shape. I hold the template with the clay facing upwards and use my finger to apply platinum Inka Gold along the edge. Let this dry.

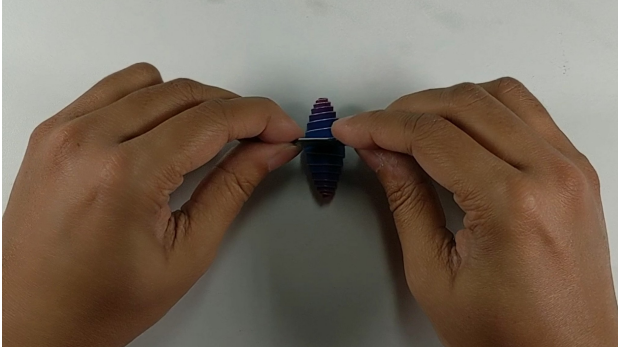
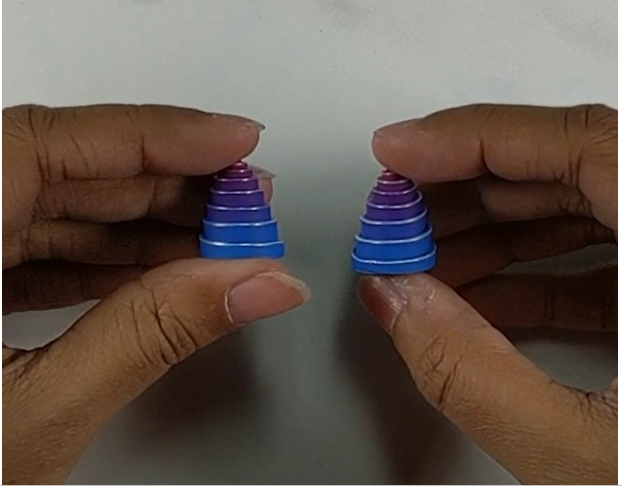



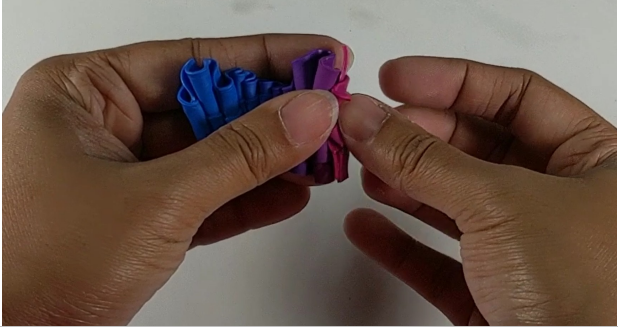

Step 7:

Place the cut shape clay side down on a sheet of paper.



<p>Step 8: Cut a beveled edge on the widest side of clay triangle.</p> <p>If you have extra clay like I do, use it as a handle to hold the clay down while gently pulling the template off.</p> <p>If you don't have extra clay, use a tissue blade to carefully ease the wide edge off the template.</p>	
<p>Step 9: Place your knitting needle or mandrel of choice against the beveled edge. Press the clay against the mandrel. Make sure you have good contact, especially if using a thin mandrel.</p>	
<p>Step 10: Start rotating the mandrel to wrap clay around. The highlighted edge will be on the outside. Make sure to keep the triangle centered.</p> <p>I like to lift the mandrel and do this in the air after the initial couple of rotations.</p>	
<p>Step 11: Press the narrow end against the bead gently.</p>	
<p>Step 12: Place the bead on the work surface and use a tissue blade to mark the center of the bead. Don't cut all the way through.</p>	

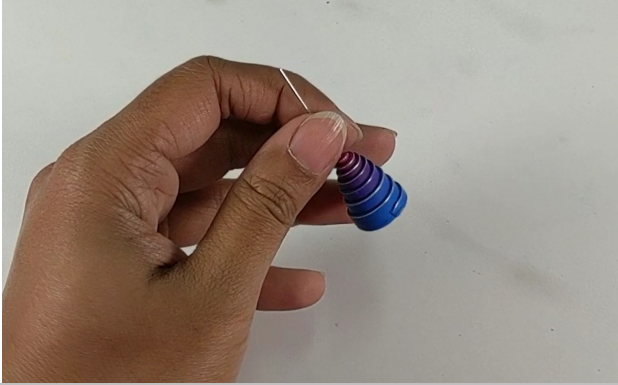
<p>Step 13: Bake your bead(s) per the manufacturer’s instructions. I cure all Premo at 275 F (measured by an oven thermometer) for at least 45 minutes in a covered pan.</p> <p>Check the helpful links page for a link to The Blue Bottle Tree article on baking practices.</p>	
<p>I was able to twist my needle out before baking. You can do this before or after curing.</p>	
<p>Step 14: When the bead is still warm from the oven, use a sharp blade to cut through the bead following the guideline you made earlier. Don’t burn your fingers! The bead only needs to be warm. If the blade doesn’t cut through easily, pop the bead back in the oven for a few minutes and try again.</p>	
<p>Step 15: You now have two matching cone beads!</p>	
<p>Step 16: I use the rest of the sheet to make more beads.</p>	
<p>TIP: After cutting out all the triangle shapes you can, you’ll be left with strips of clay. You can squish together these bits and reblend it to squeeze out another bead or two.</p>	

<p>Pleat the strip of clay to reduce the width of the blend. Use a roller to flatten the pleats out and reblend this. I was able to squeeze out one more bead from this.</p>	
<p>The picture shows the cone beads and the remaining rolled beads I got from an ounce of clay. On the left is the scrap left. With a little more patience and reblending, I could have made one more bead from that scrap!</p>	

Your cones are ready! Use them in necklaces, earrings...however you like.

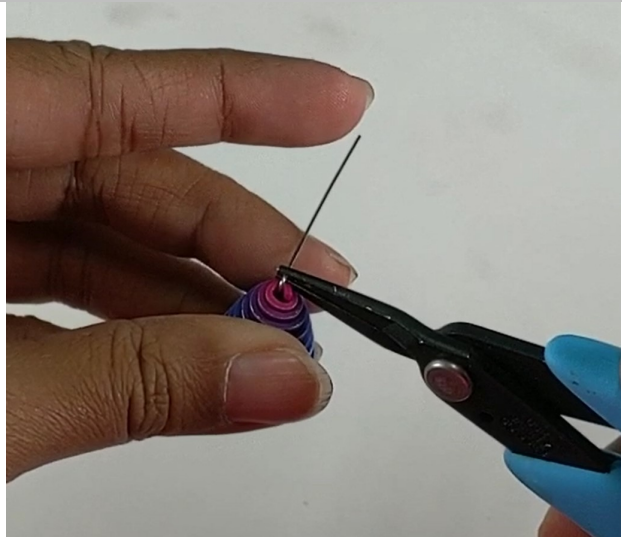
Making cone bead earrings:

I inserted a head pin and created a wire wrapped loop at the point of the cone. The loop has a hook ear wire inserted into the loop. The following are some simple instructions for this. The video will show this much more clearly. Also check the [helpful links](#) page for far better videos on this process!

<p>Step 1: Insert the head pin into the cone. I chose to have the head pin coming out from the pointed end. The reverse would be cool!</p> <p>Make sure the channel in the bead is too narrow for the head pin to go through. Add a bead at the base in this case.</p>	
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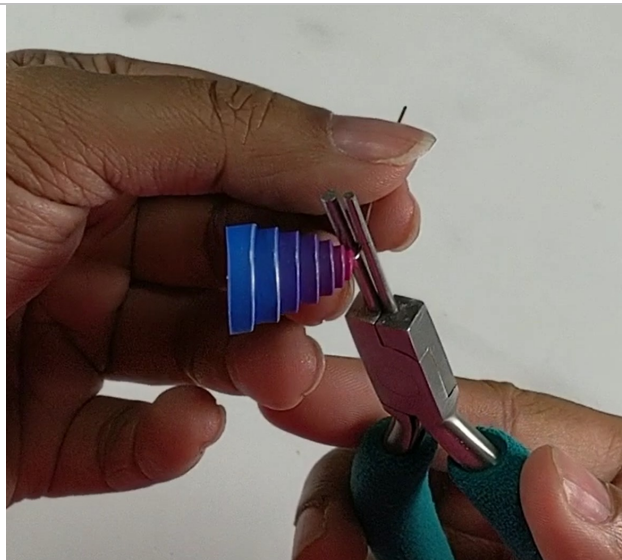
Step 2:

Using needle nose or chain nose pliers, grip the wire just above the tip of the cone. Bend the wire at an angle.



Step 3:

Place round nose or looping pliers against the bend. You want one of the "arms" of the pliers to be above the bend and one below.



Step 4:

Bring the wire around the round plier piece. This creates the loop. You may need to shift the pliers to complete the loop.

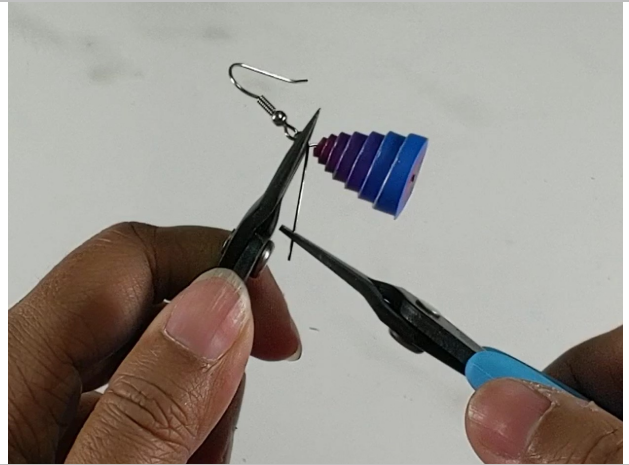
Remove the pliers and insert the ear wire into the loop created.



Step 5:

Grip the loop with chain nose pliers or needle nose pliers. Using your fingers or pliers, wrap the free wire end below the loop to seal it with the ear wire.

Once you've made a couple of wraps, trim the excess wire.



Your earrings are ready! Take a look at the gallery for some variations!

Gallery

Here are some earrings I made using the rolled cone technique. So many variations with the same blend!

 <p>The earrings from the tutorial! These use the largest template.</p>	 <p>Also from the tutorial blend. This is the medium width template</p>	 <p>These are cones from the smallest template. I filled in the mandrel channel and added earring posts.</p>
 <p>Medium sized template without highlighted edges.</p>	 <p>Smallest sized template cones, but as drop earrings instead of studs.</p>	 <p>This was a blend from Yellow Gold Glitter to Twinkle Twinkle. The edges were left plain for a softer look.</p>
 <p>You can mix and match cones from different beads!</p>	 <p>These are layered cones. The top cones use about half length of the medium template.</p>	 <p>Layered cones with the smaller cones at the bottom. The tiny cones used about a third length of the medium template.</p>

Helpful links

- Check out [this Skinner blend tutorial](#) from Fiona Abel-Smith
- [Tiny Pandora Crafting Boutique](#)
Beads and Blends kit, DeepShine and lots of fun products
- [The Blue Bottle Tree article](#) covering various sealers and varnishes
- [This video from Beadaholique](#) shows how to create a simple wire wrapped loop.
- Another wire wrapping tutorial [here](#).
- Some good wire wrapping techniques in this [Turtle Soup Beads tutorial](#) as well
- Checkout a [series of articles on baking polymer clay](#) from The Blue Bottle Tree.

Don't forget to see the video for this project on the [Studio Cryptique channel](#). Lots of cool videos there!

Check out my clay work at [The Beaded Bazaar](#)!