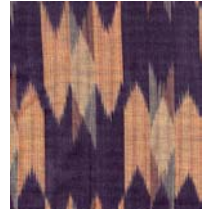


IKAT Millefiori Cane

by Iris Mishly

Photos – Avi Natan

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Ikat, or Ikkat, is a style of weaving that uses a resist dyeing process similar to tie-dye on either the warp or weft before the threads are woven to create a pattern or design. Ikat means "to tie" or "to bind" in the Malay language.

The IKAT was inspiration to many polymer clay artists such as Kim Korringa, Judy Belcher, Steven Ford, Donna Kato, Mia Rox and more.

This tutorial contains some of the info published in the internet and has an addition of a nice twist to making "fabric look" canes.

In this tutorial we will be making 3 kinds of IKAT millefiori canes and then make pendants from them.



Materials:

Working space, clean and smooth (ceramic/glass tile is great)

3 packs of polymer clay in 4 colors.

Scrap clay

Cutting blade

Brayer

Ruler

Pasta machine – recommended

Cookie cutter for pendant

Straw or a small round/flower cookie cutter

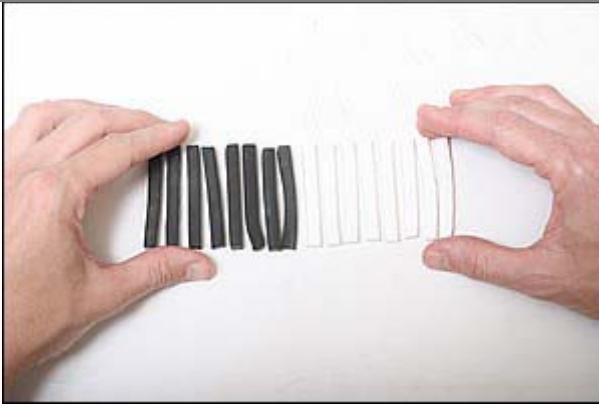
Baby wipes for cleaning

Parchment paper

Pasta Machine

There are few brands of pasta machines; some are different in setting then others.

When I say thickest setting choose yours accordingly whether it's 1 or 9.



1st IKAT - Crushed Ikat

Choose 2 colors of polymer clay, colors with contrast. I used 1/3 pack of white clay and 1/3 pack of black clay.

Create 8 square logs from each color. If you have a clay extruder you can use it with the square disc.



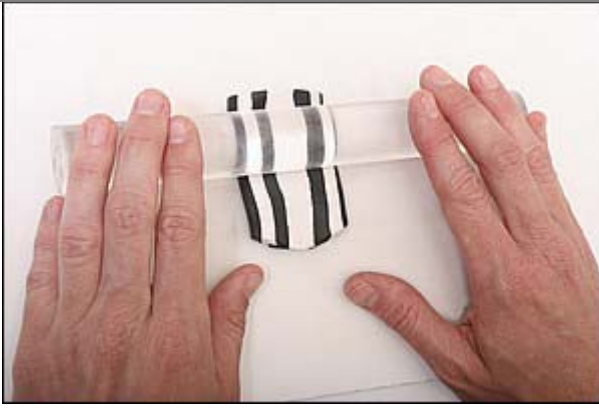
Place the squares like checkers – black and white, 4 lines and 4 rows. Tight them together a bit.



Hold the cane in 2 points of the square and start pushing and squeezing.



Continue squeezing until the squares are starting to be flat.



Use a brayer to flatten.



Insert the flattened sheet to the pasta machine on a thickest setting.



Cut in half



Place the sheets one on another, match the sides on the sides and inside on inside.



Roll again in the pasta machine, thickest setting.

Repeat cutting and rolling for the 3rd and last time.



Cut the final sheet into 4-5 sections, every piece should be around 3 cm width.



When you stack the pieces try to offset them 1 mm to the side to see an interesting pattern.



Final cane.

Set aside for a while.



2nd IKAT - Skinner Blend Ikat

Can be used with 2 or more colors skinner blend.

Choose 2 colors of polymer clay, white and a bit darker one.

1/3 pack of each.

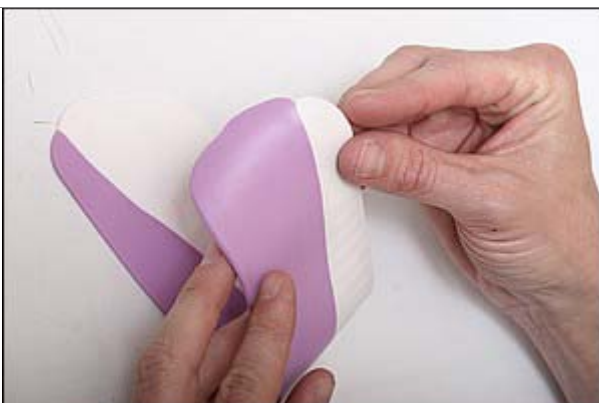
Form a triangle from each 1/3 pack of clay, it should be a triangle with 90° angle.
Match the 2 colors triangles.



Flatten with a brayer before inserting to the pasta machine.



Insert the flattened sheet to the pasta machine on a thickest setting.
Note that 2 colors are touching the rollers.



When the sheet rolled out of the pasta machine, fold it in half – white to white, other color to other color.

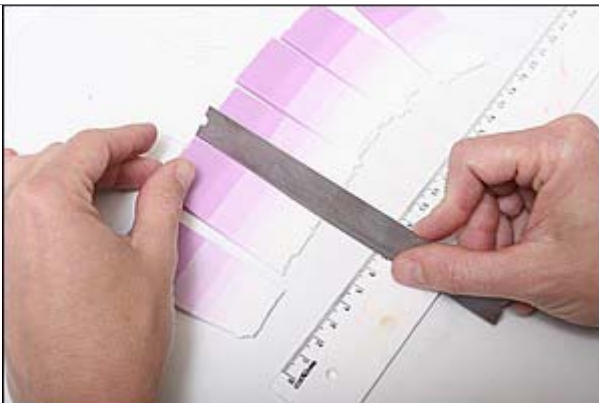


Roll again.

These steps of folding and rolling takes about 5 times to create a partial skinner blend (a full one is 15 times, but we don't need that at the moment)



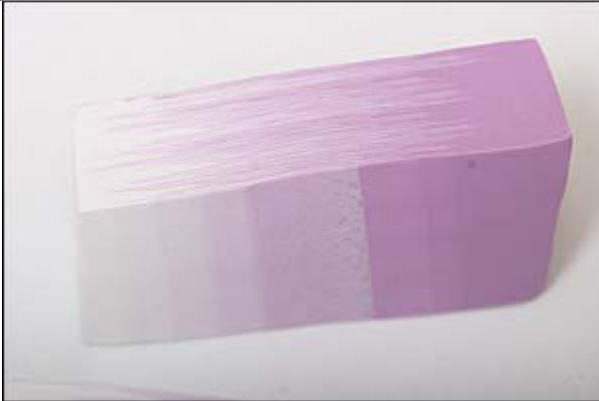
This is the result of a partial blend



Cut the final sheet into 5-6 sections, every piece should be around 3 cm width.



When you stack the pieces try to offset them 1 mm to the side to see an interesting pattern.



Final cane.

Set aside.



3rd IKAT - Crushed Spiral

This is not a typical IKAT technique but it is also made by flattening canes & stacking them. It's a great use for using old canes and making an interesting pattern out of them.

Choose 2 colors of polymer clay, white and a darker one (not black)

1/3 pack of each.

Roll each 1/3 pack in the pasta machine, thickest setting, cut 2 rectangles and roll them into a jellyroll cane. (if you do not know how to do it, you can see my tutorial on basic spiral millefiori cane.



Start the reduction by surrounding it in the middle with your hands and pressing very gently, making an hourglass shape. Then gradually move out to the ends, until the cane is even again.



Continue doing this until the cane is the size you want, or until it's thin enough to roll on your work surface.



Press the cane long-wise to flat it.



Insert the flattened sheet to the pasta machine on a thickest setting.



Cut the final sheet into 5-6 sections, every piece should be around 3 cm width.



When you stack the pieces try to offset them 1 mm to the side to see an interesting pattern.

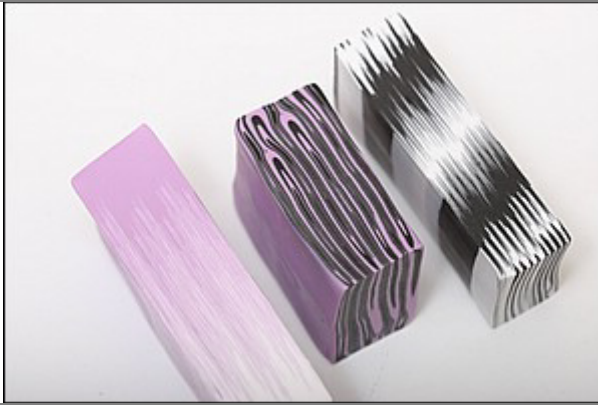


Press the cane to form a round/square cane.



Final cane.

All 3 canes together:



Making the pendants:

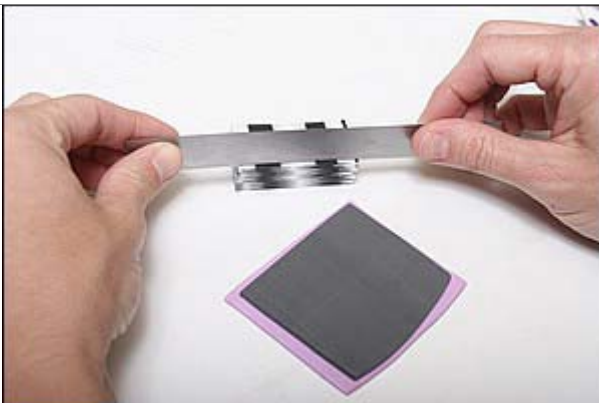


Roll 2 layers of clay in the thickest setting of your pasta machine. The color can be scrap or "right from the package" color.

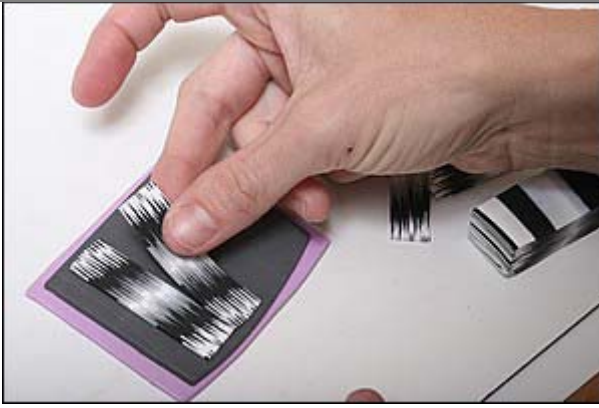
Put the 2 layers on a parchment paper.



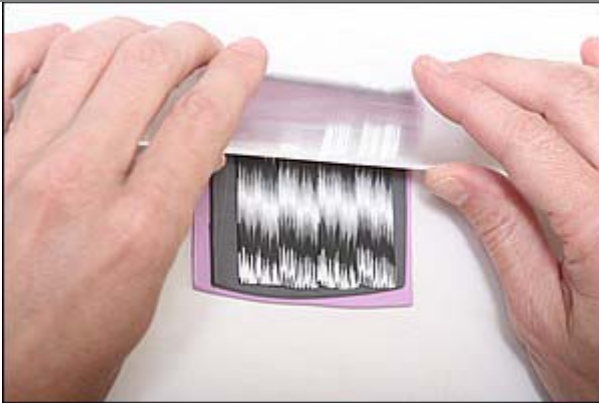
Roll the 2 layers lightly to release air bubbles inside.



Cut thin slices of out IKAT millefiori canes



Place them one next to the other.



Roll the 2 layers lightly to release air bubbles inside and to connect all slices together.



Place the round/other cookie cutter



Press hard to cut.



Pull the cutter and slowly release the pendant.



Repeat the same process with your 2 other IKAT canes.

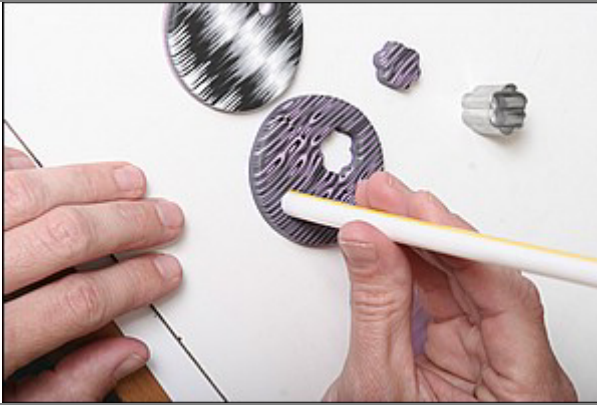


Take your drinking straw or a small round/flower cutter and make a hole for stringing.

Cure.

Curing is the process of heating the clay to make a finished piece. During curing, the temperature causes chemical changes in the clay, making it hard and strong. Polymer clay cure at low temperatures (Recommendations on this vary, and you'll notice that different brands of clay call for different curing temperatures, check the package wrap), so you don't need a special kiln – you can cure it in a kitchen oven.

Place your nice canes in a plastic/metal box and



the leftovers in another box. There are many uses for leftover/scrap clay! I will be happy to share some with you on my next tutorials.



Here are more samples with different colors!

ENJOY!



Iris Mishly | Polymer clay art, design and tutorials

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