

My pre-occupation this month seems to be bangles. Look at the front page of the British Polymer Clay Guild website to see a couple of reports on a recent workshop that was run at their regular venue in Litchfield www.bpcg.org.uk

Also we have news of a new bangle workshop which will be held on 22nd Ma <http://www.clectic-events.co.uk/carol-blackburn---beaux-bangles.html> This is sponsored by a new company called 'Clectic Events'. Clectic events is the initiative of Rebecca Thickbroom who organised the Polymer Pamper Play. I was at this incredibly well organised event and recommend Rebecca without reservation. She says "If you are an artist who needs a talented event organiser to plan and coordinate workshops on your behalf, perhaps Rebecca@Clectic-Events can be of assistance - whatever the medium". You will see, too, that Carol Blackburn will be running further workshops on 21st August and 20th November.

I decided that I needed some forms to make bangles – searched the Net to no avail, although I did buy a collection of Indian bangles and some may be of use – and the patterned ones were given to my granddaughter! But then I came across the tutorial by Dani <http://www.craftedu.com/making-your-own-microcutters-for-polymer-clay/play-MzA2Njk2NTc3NQ> He is teaching how to make cutters here (you may be tempted – indeed all the tutorials are excellent) but it is so obvious that you can create a form for your bangles this way. Or even just use a whole can and slide it off when finished!



I have just spent a couple of days at the Hobbycraft exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre playing, with great excitement, with my new toy! I have managed to source a really first class stainless steel extruder which is so much less expensive than the Makins one. It has a handle which makes life so much easier (and it folds away) and it comes in a rather nice little presentation box - and its cutters are interchangeable with the Makins ones.

http://www.clayaround.com/product_info.php?cPath=1&products_id=470



That is not all – we have also been able to get hold of a collection of the 5 in a pack Kemper Plunger cutters. They don't have seams, and the plunger will push out your clay if it gets stuck in the cutter when in use. <http://www.clayaround.com/index.php?cPath=1>

And – the new Premo colours have finally arrived: 24 interesting new colours. Despite the prices having risen considerably I am choosing to keep them at the current rate. However, the bad news is that postage charges in the UK go up on 4th April so those will change. Whilst we are keeping our clay prices competitive with no increases as a result of the VAT changes or instance, we will be changing the minimum order for free postage to £50. This will take effect on April 11th. Mind you, you will still struggle to find a better deal!

Creativity is piercing the mundane to find the marvellous
Bill Moyers