

I have been playing with texture lately inspired by the recent posting on Polymer Clay Daily <http://www.polymerclaydaily.com> where Cynthia showed us an excellent idea by Marlene Brady <http://itsallaboutcreating.blogspot.com/2011/07/bottoms-up.html> : the use of plastic bottles.

I have been attempting to source some texture sheets too and Angela from BPCG found just what was wanted at the Lakeland stores:



These are not only a useful texture in their own right, but are used (in particular by Lindly Haunani) to hide imperfections in the construction of clay pieces.

I was also looking for some metal pieces to make cutters at a steel works locally and when wandering through their massive (and dirty) factory saw bits of off cuts lying around on the floor. I managed to acquire one interesting design which I can use:



It is amazing how I now notice this 'non slip' flooring in use all over the place!

I could produce a page of possible texture making implements – your kitchen and tool shed are full of them. However, for me some more unusual ones are ancient lace, antique buttons or buckles; the veins of live leaves and the soles of shoes. Even more unusual is the wonderful coin that my son cut for me:



There is an excellent website which will help you to make your own texture tools:

http://www.polymerclayweb.com/handmade_tools.asp

There are commercial tools too: <http://www.clayaround.com/index.php?cPath=1&sort=2a&page=2>

And of course there are the commercial texture sheets – the most beautiful, in my view, being Lisa Pavelka's:

<http://www.clayaround.com/index.php?cPath=29&osCsid=389aac91e0258b6add6fefa3383cb99a>

I have had a go with these great little carving tools for creating your own texture sheets.



They can produce some interesting textures on soft clay as well as cured clay. Here are some hints on carving cured polymer clay:

- Be sure your clay is cured properly so it doesn't chip
- Warm your clay slightly before starting to carve
- Be sure your tools are sharp
- Raise up what you are carving so you don't have to bend over it
- Protect your fingers – maybe use a thimble
- If your piece isn't straight, put it into a nest of fabric (say a towel) for more control

Finally, I received this wonderful tip this month from one of my customers:

Hi Penny

I made a little discovery this morning, and thought you might like to add it to your next newsletter as a tip for others using the Renaissance wax

http://www.clayaround.com/product_info.php?cPath=24&products_id=335

I find that if you just apply the wax then buff, the clay comes up 'sort of' shiny'. However, last night I applied the wax to my sanded clay beads, then went to bed. This morning, (while the kettle was boiling for my first cup of coffee!) I gave the waxed beads a quick buffing and they came up really shiny with very little buffing. I think maybe leaving the wax to set a little overnight must help. For buffing, I use a home-made denim buffing wheel on a mini-drill (Aldi's cordless – brilliant!!) Best regards
Sue

Thank you Sue

No one is in control of your happiness but you; therefore, you have the power to change anything about yourself or your life that you want to change.

Barbara de Angelis

A reminder that ClayAround will not be processing orders for the week beginning 11th September. I will be back on 19th September. I am off to meet Lisa Pavelka! Orders will still be accepted on the website and will be dealt with on my return.

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