

Mixed Media Adornments - Supplies List

Some of these items can be substituted with a similar item or medium, so do take a look at what you have and any suggestions I give you below before running to the art store!

This shows exactly what I used for this workshop, plus a few suggestions for alternatives which would also work, although sometimes with slightly different results .

First of all - a little homework to get you started!

Find some inspiration is your first task!

I used a selection of organic items to inspire me for these designs. If possible, take a walk in nature and gather a few things that attract you - leaves, bark, twigs or flowers ... or perhaps if you are more coastal, then shells, feathers and pebbles might be more to your taste. If this is not possible for you, spend a little time online and seek out some natural shapes and textures that appeal to you - creating a pinterest board is a great way to do this. We will start the class

alternatively if mobility or time is an issue, or you feel like you really want to just get started with the MAKING stuff part , I have provided a handy dandy pinterest board inside the classroom, with a whole bunch of beautiful textures and shapes for you to choose from and use as a basis for your designs.

Either way, I encourage you to begin with a few quick drawings and studies to help guide and inspire your unique designs.

For the drawing studies, please use whatever media appeals to you most . Some of you will want to create beautiful detailed drawings and paintings, for others a quick pencil or charcoal sketch will be enough to get you going - I'll be sharing my own process for this in the first lesson.

Main Workshop - 'Must Have' indicates the exact item used but alternatives are also shown.

Please protect any precious surfaces when using alcohol inks - they WILL stain!

Must have - Polymer clay - I used white as this is my preference, but you can work in any colours for this and get slightly different results, so if you have some polymer in your stash already you will be happy to know you can use it here.

Must Have - Non porous surface for rolling out your clay. I used an acrylic tray for this project, but my preference is strengthened glass or ceramic tile . You can use an old mirror, or a large flat plate. Anything that is completely smooth and won't stick to your clay. *note - if you use glass, be sure that it is thick and strong so it doesn't crack under pressure (sometimes glass from a photo frame is very thin and will be unsuitable)

Must Have - Dorland's Wax Medium if you want to achieve the same finish as demonstrated.

This is by far the best sealant that I have found!

Alternative- if you are just experimenting or are not intending to use your adornments worn next to the skin, you can substitute with a varnish for a slightly different finish. You don't need it right away, so maybe make your adornments first and then decide how you want to seal them.

Must Have - Alcohol inks to dye your clay. You only need a few (maybe 3?) I have about six different shades and this is plenty.

Alternative- You can paint with acrylic paints too. The end effect is a little different but it is a great way to get started.

Must Have - Some sort of roller to flatten out your clay. This can be as simple as a piece of wooden dowel, so check out what you have on hand.

Must Have- a few tools-basic is fine! A knife or cutting tool to cut off pieces of clay, something that will make a hole to hang your finished adornments from (I used a bamboo skewer, but a small

knitting needle or anything pointy is fine!), mark making tools as you wish - anything to make a pattern or mark in clay.

Must Have- Mica powders - sometimes called pigment powders.

Alternative- you could also use metallic acrylic paints to experiment with for a slightly different result. Experimentation is encouraged!

Must Have- a small selection of brushes, some water, a palette or saucer, tissue, cloth. I also recommend the use of LATEX GLOVES when handling acrylic inks with your fingers, because it will get right into your skin and nails and stains for DAYS! (nice to have - a hairdryer will speed drying times but isn't necessary.)

Making Up Your Beautiful Adornments

I will be showing you how to design and make up these beauties into beautiful, unique and meaningful art-to-wear inside the class.

You can of course use your finished charms and focals on sewing and mixed media projects too, so you may not need all of these supplies, but here is a list of what I used.

My preference is for findings with an antique brass finish, but use what you have or choose to your own preferences.

Here is what I used in the lessons :

Split jump rings - 3mm and 4mm.

Glass beads - assorted sizes and colours to suit. Mostly 2mm.

Earring hooks

Head pins

Pliers (two pairs)

Metal crimps 1mm size

Nylon coated steel wire (also known as tiger tail wire)

Wire cutters (can use OLD scissors too!)

there is also a bonus lesson where I use a kilt pin and some hand dyed silk ribbons too if you wish to try it later !

