

Basic Swirl Bead

Supplies

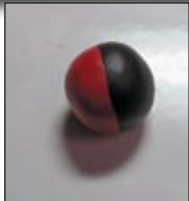
Glass or Plexiglas 4" - 5"

*Kemper Needle Tool

At Least Two Clay Colors

Bead Prep

1. Roll a ball of each clay color together to make a $\frac{3}{4}$ " ball, Our instructions use two colors, red and black.
2. To swirl the bead, you will



need a clean work surface that doesn't move and a clear 5" piece of glass or Plexiglas.

3. To swirl the bead, lay the ball on the work surface with half red and half black showing. Hold the clear piece of glass horizontal to the work surface, with your hands on either side.
4. Gently press the ball with the center of the glass and start rotating it. Keep the glass level with the table. Continue to rotate in one direction.

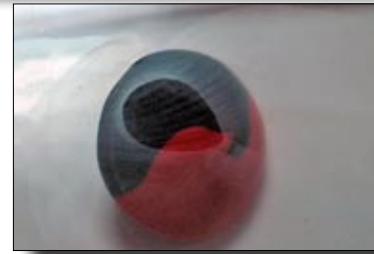


5. Continue rotating until you have a swirl you like. You will need to rotate from 10 to as many as 50 times to get a nice swirl.

6. When you

like your bead, start rotating in small circles to flatten the points.

7. If needed, drill a hole through the bead at the edge from front to back or you can drill the hole through the side close to the top. To make a clean hole, use a sharp needle tool to drill into the clay slowly. When the tip just starts



to show on the other side, back the tool out by untwisting it. Drill back into the tiny hole where the tip had peeked out on the other side. This will help keep the bead from distorting. If you prefer, you can bake your bead and then use a small hand drill to make the hole.

8. Bake your bead following the package directions.
9. When it has cooled, polish or varnish as desired. If you use pearl clays, varnishing will really bring out the sparkle!
10. Add a jump ring if you drilled your hole front to back.

Tips and Tricks

1. Glass: Anything clear will work. I use a thick piece of glass that has smooth edges to rotate my beads. You can use any piece that is clear. If you don't have a piece of Plexiglas or a thick piece of glass, you can use glass from a picture frame. Cover the edges with tape to protect your hands and be careful with really thin glass so that you don't break it and cut yourself.
2. CD Case: If you don't have any glass on hand, you can use a clear plastic CD case. Be sure to wipe it well after using it. The clay residue will react with the plastic making it gauzy or opaque. If you wipe it off, you will still be able to use it then next time you make a swirl.
3. Rotate in one direction and if you decide to turn your bead over, rotate in the opposite direction. If you change directions, the design will un-swirl.
4. If you don't keep your glass level, you may make a rectangular shaped bead.
5. If you make large circles as you rotate, the bead will become tall and pointed. As you make the rotations smaller, the bead will flatten.
6. Drilling: If you prefer, you can drill the hole after you have baked your bead.
7. Practice, practice, practice. It is a fun to see the "magic". Make beads with lots of colors. Use your scrap clay or canes.



Basic Swirl Bead

Cane Swirl

Use your canes to create interesting swirls. The sample has only three colors, red, black and pearl white.

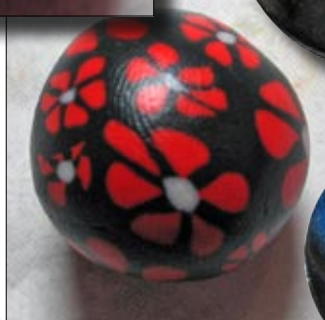
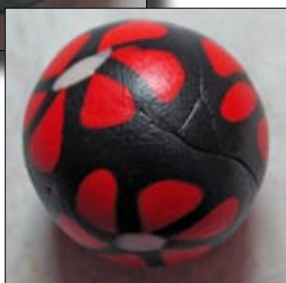
Try multi-colored canes for even more interest.



1. Start with a ball of scrap clay covered with the background color you want, in this case, black.

2. Cover the ball with thin slices of your cane.

3. Roll the ball in the palm of your hands to smooth the canes onto the ball. Swirl following the instructions on the previous page.



Three Color Swirl

Three swirls below were made using black, silver and pearl blue clay.

1. Roll snakes of various colors.
2. Twist the snakes together tightly.
3. Fold the twist in half.
4. Roll the twisted clay into a ball and continue the process to make a swirl bead.



Purple, Pearl White
and Silver Swirl



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