

GOLD RUSH NECKLACE



Make 'Gold' nuggets using polymer clay and wear them in a simple necklace over a sweater

DESIGNED BY NEENA SHILCOCK * * * * *

This is a simple but effective pendant because it is easy to make and yet looks sumptuous when worn. While the fine crackles in the nuggets are attractive, larger crackles can be covered over with foil or made part of the look. Make sure you take note of the tips. Take your time and take care as you add the embellishing features to this project. If you want to try a different idea for varnishing, two-part resin also gives the piece a fabulous shine, but has to be used judiciously to prevent drips and globules from forming. Try this project using silver or copper leaf for a different look

1

Condition the scrap clay. Roll it out using the thickest setting of the pasta machine. Double the sheet and cut out three graduated doughnut shapes using circular cutters. Use the second, third and fourth cutters for this step.

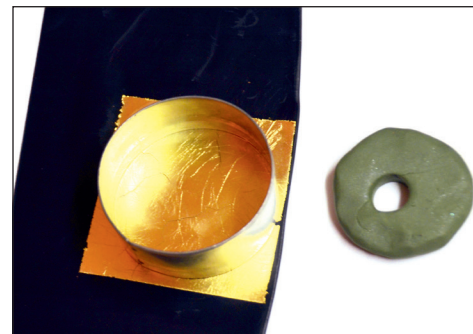


2

Put the central hole in slightly eccentrically with the smallest (fifth) cutter, but not too close to the edge. Pinch the edges together and round them off. Then put some gentle divots into the doughnuts using the ball tool.

3

Cure in the oven according to the manufacturer's instructions.

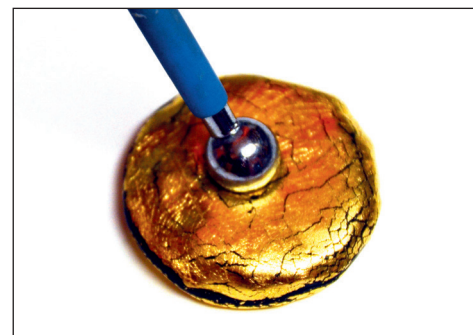


4

Roll out a sheet of black clay to the NO 5 setting on the pasta machine and burnish a sheet of gold leaf onto it. Cut out two circles with a cutter that is one size larger than the one used to make the doughnut.

5

Cover the doughnut on both sides as well as both outer and inner edges with a thin layer of Translucent Liquid Sculpey.



6

Sandwich the doughnut between the two layers of gold leafed black clay. Press the clay over the hole in the doughnut using the ball tool. Do this slowly, bit by bit, turning the doughnut over and over so that you do not stretch the clay too much and hence cause coarse crackling.

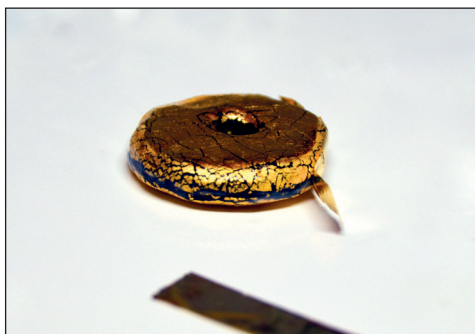
You will need:

- Premo! Sculpey Clay: 1 ounce of scrap clay and one ounce of black clay
- Translucent Liquid Sculpey
- Gold leaf: 2-3 small square sheets or one large sheet
- Circle cutters in four sizes plus a small cutter for the central hole
- Knitting needle
- Ball tool

- Exacto knife
- Pasta Machine
- Acrylic roller
- Sculpey rigid blade
- Judikins Diamond Glaze varnish and a soft paint brush
- 90cms of ultrasuede cord for stringing the necklace, in the colour of your choice



7
Cut out the hole in the doughnut with an Exacto knife and press the black clay to the inside edges of the doughnut. Smooth the seams at both edges with a knitting needle. You will now have two ugly black seams that need to be covered over with gold leaf - one at either edge of the doughnut.



8
Cover the outer seam with a thin layer of TLS using your finger. Cut thin, long strips of gold leaf and adhere them to the seam over the TLS and burnish with a clean and dry knitting needle.

TOP TIPS

CLEAN UP Keep your fingers and knitting clean after handling the TLS or the strips of gold leaf will adhere to you, not the doughnut.

STAY STABLE On cutting the strips and squares you might want to place them between two sheets of greaseproof paper for stability.

TIME AND CARE Burnish the gold leaf onto the doughnuts gently, over and over - if they are not completely flat when the piece goes into the oven, the TLS will cure around them, they will protrude from the doughnut and may need to be cut away.





9
To cover the central seam, cut out little squares of gold leaf, adhere them one by one to the edge of the hole. Push the leaf into the central hole gently with the tip of a clean and dry knitting needle and burnish it down into the hole. When one side is done, turn the doughnut over and repeat the process from the other side. Wipe the knitting needle clean after each pass and keep your fingers clean and dry as much as possible at all times. Put the doughnuts aside for ten minutes after all the seams have been dealt with and the gold leaf burnished down. When you come back to them, identify any bald black spots, cut out some more small squares of gold leaf and adhere them over the bald spots using TLS.



10
Rest the doughnuts for ten minutes each time you use TLS - this makes the TLS thicker on the clay and easier to handle. With a clean and dry finger and knitting needle, burnish the gold leaf down gently.

11
Cure in the oven on a piece of polyester batting, according to the manufacturer's instructions. If you need to, repeat the TLS and gold leaf to cover over any bald spots you might have missed and return to the oven to cure.



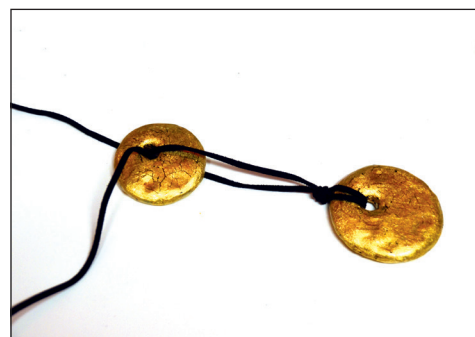
12
When cool, apply two to three coats of Judikins Diamond Glaze, which gives the nuggets a shiny glass like glaze. Allow to dry suspended over a deep cardboard box.



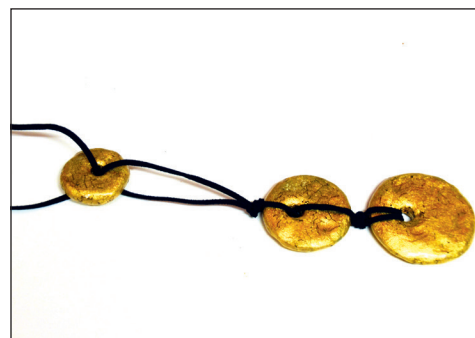
13
Cut approximately 90cms of faux suede to string the doughnuts. Start with the largest doughnut and tie it onto the faux suede with a lark's head knot as in the picture.



14
Tie a single hitch knot using both strands of faux suede and ensure that the knot sits just above the top of the doughnut - this prevents it from moving.



15
Tie the second doughnut into the faux suede using a figure of eight as in the picture - one strand goes under the doughnut, through the hole and out over the front of the piece, the second strand goes over the front of the doughnut, through the hole and out over the back of the piece. Tie another single hitch knot with both strands above the second doughnut as in step 14.



16
Add the third doughnut to the necklace as in step 15, and tie a double hitch knot at the top of the smallest doughnut. Tie the piece around your neck at the level you want it to rest and you're good to go!

Inspiration

As the weather turns colder and sweaters come out of our closets, it is nice to have jewellery that brightens up the ensemble without being heavy around the neck. This necklace is especially suitable to be worn in the autumn months over cardigans, and on a long cord. It works well for Lagenlook outfits too.

BEADLINK: www.capriciousjewellery.com