

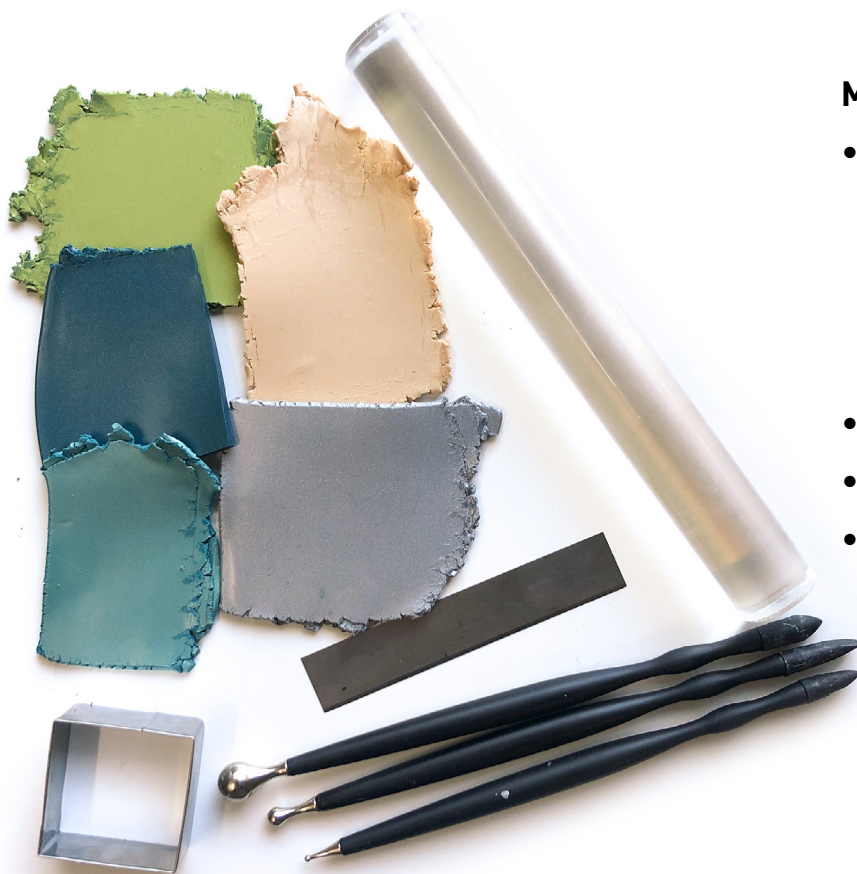


# “Acid Drop” Mokume Gane with Polymer Clay

**Mokume Gane** is a Japanese metal working process which produces a mixed-metal end product with distinctive layered patterns. Mokume Gane translates closely to “wood grain metal” or “wood eye metal” and describes the way metal takes on the appearance of natural wood grain. It is a technique that is transferable to polymer clay.

In this tutorial, I am going to show you how to make a small mokume gane slab using polymer clay. I first shared this technique in full in my [Studio Scraps](#) newsletter.

It is my own twist on the mokume technique, and one I used to make my [“Acid Drop”](#) collection pieces.



## Materials needed

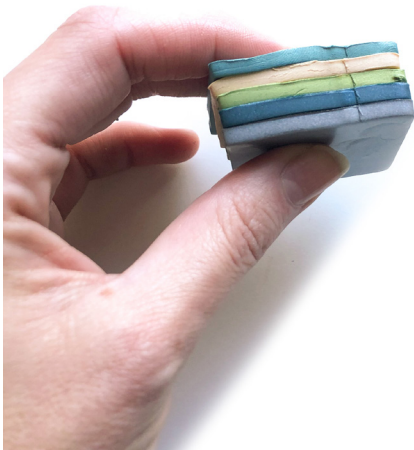
- Polymer clay (minimum 2 colours, I have used 5), I like using metallic clay for this technique though regular ‘opaque’ clay will work just as well.
- Acrylic roller
- Tissue blade
- Balling tools



### Step 1.

Condition your clay and roll out your chosen colours into sheets of the same thickness. Cut out (by hand or using a cutter) pieces from each colour.

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### Step 2.

Time to stack the colours. The order in which you stack the colours will determine how the final pattern will look! I try to keep similar toned colours separated.

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### Step 3.

Use your acrylic roller to flatten this initial stack of colours. Rotate and flip the stack with each roll to keep it even. Continue until the stack is about 4mm thick.

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**Step 4.**

Cut the stack in half with a blade.

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**Step 5.**

Place the two pieces on top of each other, making sure the direction of the colours is consistent.

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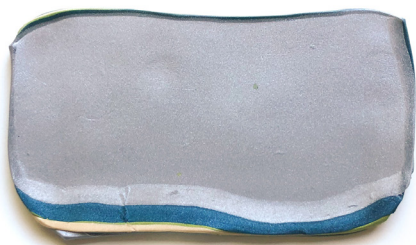


**Step 6.**

Re-roll this new stack (rotating and flipping) until it is about 4mm thick again.

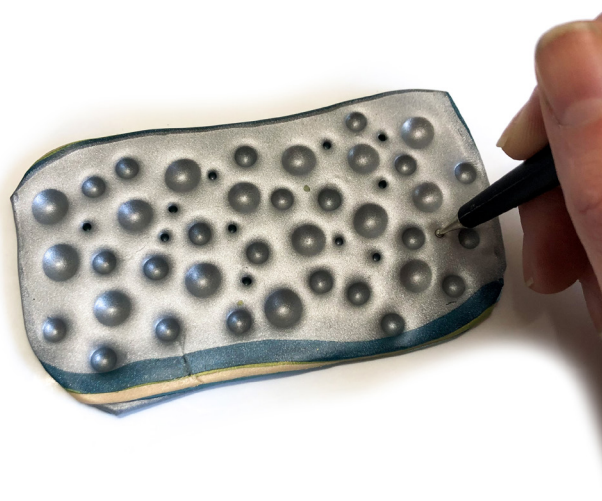
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### Step 7.

Now to disrupt the layers with some texture. This is where you can try any kind of texturing tools you like! I have used balling tools here but you can use all kinds of tools.



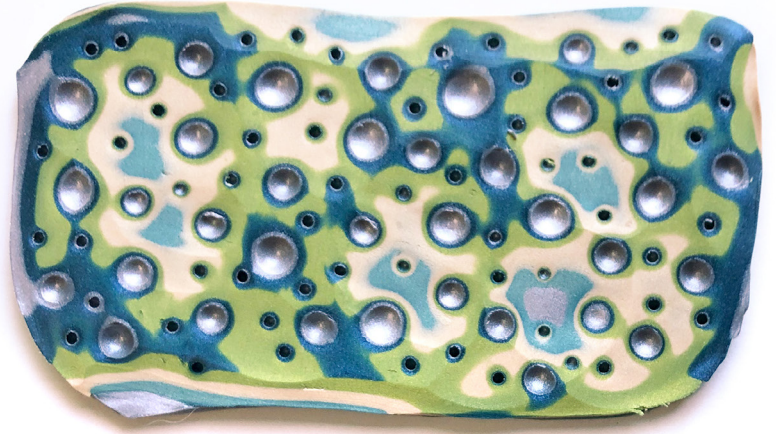
### Step 8.

Time to slice! Make sure the clay is well adhered to the tile surface. Use a sharp, flexible tissue blade. Don't cut too deeply!

Check out my [Instagram story highlights](#) to see some video footage of this process.



You can now make all kinds of items with this clay veneer/slab.



But! Do not throw away any of your scraps created when slicing away the top layers of clay, They are all useable.



I keep the neat slices intact to use as they are, and chop up the messy ones and create twisted tube beads as pictured. Any scraps from the slab after cutting out earring or pendants shapes also get made into tube beads. **There is literally no waste from this technique.**







**Heidi Helyard has been making handmade polymer clay art and jewellery for over 2 years now. Heidi is known for her constantly evolving experimental approaches to her medium of choice, as well as never making the same thing twice!**



Heidi's background in professional graphic design informs each uniquely created one-off collection, based around her well-known "slabs". Under the close eye of her massive social media following, and with their encouragement, Heidi continues to discover new, inspiring and distinct methods of jewellery making.

Despite always creating new collections, her unique eye for colour makes her pieces instantly recognisable. Embracing the handmade aesthetic, imperfections are an acceptable and cherished factor of Heidi's practice. Tactility is another significant aspect of her pieces, with her 3D painted items highly textured to enhance both look and feel.

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[Heidi Helyard on Instagram](#)

## What is Studio Scraps?

**[Studio Scraps](#) is my exclusive subscription weekly newsletter!** Delivered straight to your email inbox every Sunday afternoon, Studio Scraps is a great resource for all experience levels with a love for polymer clay and the handmade business hustle. For just \$6 a month - (that's just \$1.50 a week)! Topics so far have included loads of different techniques, tutorials, tips, 'Heidi Hacks', supplier links, handmade business insider info, and insights into how I work with new collections and experimentations (the good and the bad) - and that's just to begin! We are nearly up to issue 37 (back issues are [available for purchase](#) on my website), including some incredible collaborator issues. I have big plans for Studio Scraps this year [so sign up](#) now!

STUDIO SCRAPS



Weekly inspiration, tips, hacks and discoveries from Heidi's polymer clay studio

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