

June 2017

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



So many people make their jewellery, but not so many make the clasps that hold them. Having been motivated by this stunning idea by Bettina Welka (see top left) you will see that it isn't just about hooking two pieces of cord together. Bettina has devised a way of making the join into a decorative feature. If you scroll down on [her website](#), you will see she runs classes to teach you how to do this.

But maybe it is appropriate to start with the very [simple methods](#) that one can use to join different materials used to hold beads. A sliding knot seems to be the very simplest. It shows you [here](#) how to tie one of these sliding knots. A more sophisticated version of the same slider idea is shown here by [Carol Simmons](#) as ever her description is meticulous.

Well "even simpler I suppose is a knot" as shown on this French website, or [a bow](#) like is used here.

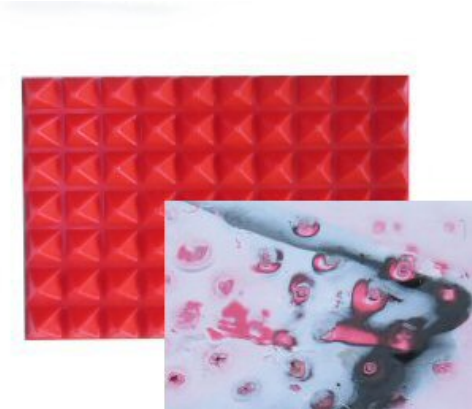
Then there are toggle clasps. You can see one that Cara Jane has made in the picture up right. You can see how to make it on her website [here](#). Carol Blackburn uses [beads](#) to make a toggle look more interesting.

Getting closer to Bettina's ideas there is a very striking, but oh so simple idea created with [strips of a T shirt](#) and Carol Blackburn has similar ideas to Bettina with a different type of [toggle clasp](#) and here's [another](#) along similar lines (if you click through her pictures you will see more information on how she has developed it).

And another idea by Mandat

And another idea by [Maryko](#)

Finally (just to be different!) there is a [Pinterest page](#). I hope they give you inspiration!



About the only new goodies we have this month are these pyramid sheets. We bought them after Val Anderson cleverly saw the potential for them in that they can be used as texture sheets, or because they are so deep ideal for mokume gane™ (I got Hazel to experiment on our last clayday – see insert) the tiny indentations are even big enough to put colours into – or seed beads.

They are fun and they are cheap so add them to your next order!

The Sculpey clear liquid clay will be with me on Tuesday of next week, I have just received the shipping note! I have been holding back on an order from Kato too as they were waiting for their clear liquid clay (very confusing for Kato™s is not clear!) That arrived today.

And finally we have more [Gleam sets](#), more [mica powder paint](#) and more [Karantha Stamps](#) arriving tomorrow - it looks as if it will be a busy few days.

Van Aken have brought out a new Kato clay that is neon pink and is already being retailed in America. I contacted the european suppliers and



I met Jo Turner at Polymania, and previously at Polymer Clay days. She, like me, recognises how great it is to meet other clayers, and of course the wonderful tutors. Jo has been claying since her early teens and loves the variety of techniques. She incorporates her beading into her pieces, particularly enjoying mokume gane (see the piece above). She has two adult sons and lives in Malvern. You can find more about her on [her website](#) and you can see lots more pictures on her [instagram page](#). If you want to buy from her (or tell your friends to!) then she can also be found [here](#)

Our next Clayday is on August 12th August. As usual anyone is welcome. Details are [here](#) and including pictures of what we have been up to. We frequently have new people join us so the mix is always different. A

they tell me it is unlikely that they will be stocking it ! The European suppliers suggested a full neon range to Van Aken but it seems it did not materialize so it looks as if the neon pink will have to stay in America

If you fancy a very different early holiday you may like to go to Polymer Week 2017. Cara will be teaching there. The [whole programme](#) is from 2-7th July

really talented group of people who have a reputation for being very welcoming..

At the end of July the newsletter will be late. We are heading to France to learn from the wonderful Doreen Kassel. [Just look](#) what we will be learning!

Also we will have limited deliveries at the end of July because of this course, so get your orders in early!

Crafting is the answer, who cares what the question is?

Anon

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