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| Your ClayAround Newsletter |

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| I have a friend to whom I gave a cookery book.  He now creates faultless meals for himself by following the recipes to the letter.   ‘But you can use…. Instead’ I cry.   ‘I must have what the recipe says’ is his response.     As a youngster even I used to remember what I had been taught (‘half fat to flour and a third sugar’ was the favourite - for crumble) and stuck to it religiously.   I now know just how much one can take inspiration from things one sees and develop ideas creatively.Are you aware too that your focus when making your polymer artefacts is invariably according to what is happening in your life?  So my intention today is to throw out some idea, for different occasions.  The obvious one is, are you now making things to sell at Christmas fairs?   How about developing something from [this idea:](https://www.aliexpress.com/item/32838974040.html).  But before that there is Halloween – what could you come up with having seen something [like this](https://rockinresin.com/products/10pc-mix-halloween-polymer-clay-cane-for-nail-art):  I am inevitably reminded of a visit from my son (who slept in the room where the clay is shelved).  He reported that he woke in the middle of the night to find a strange glow in the centre of the wall: it was the dozen or so packets of ‘ glow in the dark’ clay!Back to selling for Christmas: are cuff links no longer appropriate?  Well here are [some ideas](http://craftygoat.com/2009/06/masculine_gifts_from_polymer_c.html).Maybe people are buying knowing there is a new baby in mind.  How about developing something like [these:](https://www.etsy.com/hk-en/listing/552443913/baby-christmas-ornament-polymer-clay)Moving on from Christmas you may want to be making something useful.   I once made a collection of buttons whose colours were exactly the same as the colours of the wonderful hand dyed Collinette yarns that were so popular – and sold them to the manufacturer (see picture above left)Maybe you love colour (like I do).   I have just made these pieces for my new baby granddaughter – this for me was most satisfying (photo on the right)Moods might affect your creativity too.  The colours one chooses can be influenced by pictures.  This is where Carol Simmons is the expert.   See what I mean when she displays some of the [colours chosen by her students](https://clsdesigns.wordpress.com/2011/06/19/sources-of-color-inspiration-student-work/)In my own experience it is really motivating to create polymer clay work from pictures that attract one.Maybe the time of the year influences you  For it is already getting colder.  These lovely [leaves](https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/295056213067107182/) are inspirational for me, or more complicated is this [charm bracelet](https://www.etsy.com/uk/listing/597314409/autumn-bracelet-for-catherine-cha-cha?show_sold_out_detail=1)And then there is winter.  Maybe [these](https://www.browneyedrose.com/products/snowflake-trees-art-print-childrens-kids-room-nursery-decor-8x10-photograph) will give you some ideas. And then there is Easter….. I could go on, with endless possibilities.  But I am sure you get the idea.  Watch your moods, watch your predilections, and use your creative imagination!  |

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| We have interesting new stock.  I have now bought the new mica powders by Cernit.  The diamond range is particularly sparkly, but they are all really vivid and [exciting colours.](https://www.clayaround.com/ourshop/cat_1585970-Cernit-Sparkling-Mica-Powder.html)For those of you who are into steam punk we have [pseudo cogs](https://www.clayaround.com/ourshop/prod_6889477-Steam-punk-cogs.html) available: not real clock parts but certainly excellent for decoration, and there are a mixture of gold, silver and copper pieces.We have restocked the very popular [latex fingers.](https://www.clayaround.com/ourshop/prod_6248650-Latex-fingers.html) (but still have [gloves](https://www.clayaround.com/ourshop/prod_6551748-Nitrile-gloves.html) if you prefer)We are sellinglots of [magnets.](https://www.clayaround.com/ourshop/prod_6394987-Rare-earth-magnets-125-x-5-x-25mm.html)  These are ideal for making Christmas fridge magnets to sell if you are going to lots of Fairs in the next month or so..  But, talking working toward Christmas we have some new  template/stencil designs just for Christmas.  These are: a very fast way of creating decorations to sell (see pictured above).  The designs are inexpensive and effective and easy to use.   You will see above we have a number of designs, and they can be found [here.](https://www.clayaround.com/ourshop/cat_1589011-Templates-and-Stencils.html)  |

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| Ruth Winchester, ‘in a previous life’ lived only yards away from where I lived in Birmingham so inevitably I set up conversation with her.  Ruth is a particularly talented crafter and teacher who has lately been concentrating on producing these quire wonderful millefiori tiles.  She has a [website](http://www.doodlepippin.co.uk) where you can see lots more of her designs as well as other work she has produced.  She has very comprehensive website. There are lots of hints and tips about claying for beginners, plus details of potential workshops that she teaches.   You can learn lots more about her [here:](http://www.doodlepippin.co.uk/about?fbclid=IwAR2OQkPtM_QoGOxCiYX_hrBVSBOZVq-u5VFbIzRonKLD50UDOLPTdHgF_AE)  If you read what she does you will find that she does a lot of work transferring her designs onto various items with a heat press.  The work is called ‘dye sublimation using special inks.  There is no limit to her abilities!She has an [Etsy shop](https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/DoodlePippin) too.  If you are attracted to her work she has created a 10% discount on her Etsy shop.  Just enter CLAYAROUND10   And then she said she would offer a 15% discount from her website: [this is the shop](http://www.doodlepippin.co.uk/buy). Just add CLAYAROUND15 in the space provided at the checkout. I have a lot of admiration for what she has achieved.   What she does is makes you realise if you are determined, you, too, can have a full time job working to provide an income with your polymer clay ‘hobby’.Remember ClayAround will be heading to PolyAnglia on 3rd October so there won't be any orders posted from that day until Tuesday 8th |

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|  ‘Eliminate what doesn’t help you evolve’**anon** |

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