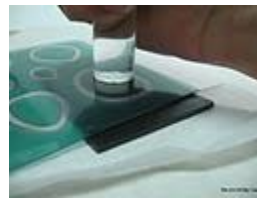




Here are some of the supplies you will need as well as a pasta machine. (That box of patty papers is from a restaurant supply store. They are actually used to keep hamburger patties separated). The X-acto knife that I use is referred to as a #11.



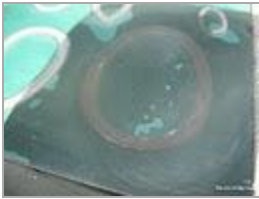
Let's make a bezel first. A light spray of the mold with water will keep the clay from sticking to it.



Place your clay on top of paper. Place the wet side of the mold on top of the clay. (One layer of clay rolled on the thickest setting of your pasta machine.) Hold your acrylic roller in your fist and repeatedly rub over the mold with a lot of pressure.



You need to rub until the clay is up into the mold. This is what it looks like when you are almost done.



This is what it looks like when you are done. You can see that the clay has filled the cavity of the bezel.



Lift the mold off.



A perfect, smooth bezel ! That wasn't too difficult was it?



Pat lightly with a soft absorbent cloth to remove excess water. This just makes it easier to see when you are cutting.



Hold the blade still (don't angle the blade) and turn the PAPER instead of moving the blade. (I usually put a little mark at the starting point so I know when I have completely gone around)



Try not to start and stop too many times as this may leave marks on the side of the bezel.



Lift off the surrounding scrap clay. Leave the bezel stuck to the paper



The more practice you get the easier it is.



If you find that there are marks on the edges then you have 2 choices. Lightly smooth the edges now with your finger or wait until after the bezel is baked and run the edges over some fine sandpaper.



If you want to customize your bezel do it now with some small tools.



Don't apply too much pressure or you will mis-shape it.



This is my favourite tool to use.



If you want to apply some metallic powders you need to do it now before baking.



Add these powders with your fingertips if you just want the powder on the surface.



Apply them with a brush if you want the powders to fill the textured areas, You choose whether you want to cover the sides or leave them bare.



Bake according to the clay manufacturer's instructions. Once it has cooled apply a clear coat to keep the powders from rubbing off.



Now for the cabochon. Place a thin veneer on top of 2 layers of (both on the thickest setting of your pm) of coordinating clay. I have used scrap under the veneer here so that you can see it more easily. (I sometimes use 3 layers of clay for a thicker cabochon)



Place this stack on top of paper. Roll lightly to remove air pockets.



Because these molds are translucent you can decide on the best placement for the mold.



Spray the mold lightly with water.



Take the roller in your fist and rub either up and down or back and forth. Rubbing in a circular motion will distort the design of the clay and this may not be a desirable effect.



Now you have a beautifully smooth cab that doesn't need sanding. It doesn't take nearly as much pressure to create the cabochon.



Use a sharp knife to cut around the cab, Remember, move the paper not the knife and try not to angle the blade at all.



Remove excess clay.



Carefully remove the paper. You can see the edges of the scrap clay here



Place cab into cooled bezel. Now you need to gently stretch the sides to cover the veneer layer over the base clay. It's easier if the base clay is similar to the colour of the veneer.



I like to work with it upside down in my hands like this. I usually just use my thumb to gently stretch the veneer



It's better to do a little at a time and go around a few times



You may find it easier to use a small rod to roll over the veneer to stretch it.



Once you have a baked bezel it might be a good idea to do a few practice cabochons before using your best veneer



Almost finished



If you have pushed the cab over the edge of the bezel it's easy to fix.



Just take a flexible tissue blade and gently push the cab back inside the line.



Bake the cab and bezel together



Done! Now you can add a channel to the back to run a cord through or use an eye pin on the back and cover it with another layer of clay or add a pin-back. Good Luck. I knew you could do it !!!