

Swirl Stone

.....by Laura Timmins

swirl
stone
process

Polymer clay is a synthetic clay which is colored with pigments. Three pieces of pigmented raw clay are shown here.

Different colored polymer clays are twisted and mixed together to obtain the desired colors for the piece

This gold colored clay was created by mixing white, red and yellow.

Several custom colors can then be blended together to get a gradient effect in the clay.

In this case, the gradient sheet is rolled to form a bull's eye pattern. In other cases the colors may be stacked or pieced together to form a pattern

The pattern is then stretched lengthwise to reduce it. This is the same bull's eye but with a much smaller diameter when seen in cross section.

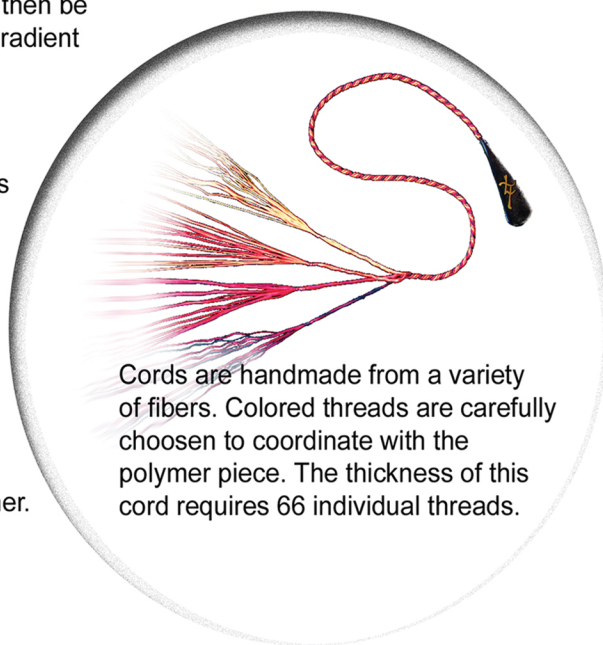
The reduced bull's eye pattern is cut into five lengths and then stacked together. Strips of black clay are added to accentuate the pattern.

A cross section slice of the stacked pattern is shown.

The process of stretching to reduce the pattern, cutting it in several lengths, and then stacking them together is repeated.

A piece of the patterned clay is combined with other patterns to create the final design.

The combined patterns are twisted together to give it the spiral effect and the clay is then sculpted into its final form. The piece is then cured with heat. A cured piece may be further modified by drilling, carving and sanding. Raw clay may be added and the piece recured several times to create a more intricate final form.



Cords are handmade from a variety of fibers. Colored threads are carefully chosen to coordinate with the polymer piece. The thickness of this cord requires 66 individual threads.