



Faux Marble Heart Necklace and Earrings

Supplies

Black and White Polymer Clay (1 oz. each)
Necklace Closure
Earring hanging wires
Jewelry tools (Round nose pliers, wire cutter)
Tiger Tail wire or thin fishing line (15 lb.)
Optional: Crimping beads and crimper tool

Marbleizing the Clay

This is one of the first beginner techniques polymer clay jewelers learn. Condition one ounce of black and one ounce of white polymer clay separately until they are malleable. Roll each color into its own log. Then twist the logs together, fold in half and blend carefully until you get a pleasant faux marble design.



Using your Hearts Mold, press and form all three hearts.

The mold left is filled with a green and white blend.





Roll out a thin flat pancake for your backing. I use the second thickest setting on my pasta machine. If you do not have a pasta machine dedicated to your clay work, you can roll out a 1/16th thick pancake by hand which will also work.

As shown in the photo to the left, cut a straight edge along the top of your backing, twist up a hanging loop and embed it into the clay.

Once you have formed your pendant heart, press it onto the back of your backing clay and cut the form out from the backing clay.

Rolling out a backing clay, embedding a hanging wire, cutting out from the backing clay and blending the edges is the basic technique used in most of my jewelry tutorials and can be seen in live action by clicking on the video graphic to the right. You will need Windows Media Player in order to view it. Most computers come with Windows Media player already installed, but if you need it, [click here](#) and download the free copy.



Follow the same procedure to create your hanging earring hearts

Beads:

Using your own techniques or those shown in my Rosary Making DVD or this video clip, make round and oblong beads using both your marble color and some in solid black. Make a few smaller beads for fillers.

To determine how many beads you will need, take a tape measure and measure from the area on your chest where you want the heart pendant to lay, and measure up and around to the back of your neck; then double that measurement.

Make as many beads as you need to fill up that length of necklace. Using a piece of 20 gauge wire (or a narrow toothpick) poke a hole in the center of each bead, slightly wiggle it, and remove.

Accordion-fold a piece of folded copy paper to make a bead tray. To see the beading and paper tray, click on the video link to the right.



Baking & Curing your Clay:

Once you have all of your beads made, carefully place them into your oven on a baking tray, making sure if you are using the paper tray, that it is safely away from the heating elements.

Check the back of your clay packaging for the manufacturer's baking instructions. Since I use Super Sculpey, I bake my beads for 25 minutes at 275° (F) I allow them to fully cool.

Optional:

For a shiny finish, spray a coat of lacquer or acrylic gloss finish onto the beads. You can set up a spray box for this or string all of your beads onto a piece of dental floss or fishing line and spray them outside your home.

I find a shiny finish makes the clay better appear as faux marble. Most marble has a certain sheen to it. You can use either a high gloss or a medium gloss.

Allow your beads to fully dry and harden before stringing them into your finished necklace.

Stringing the Beads/Pendant:

I prefer to use a medium weight fishing line (15 lb.) for my stringing line, as you do not need a needle to string the beads, it is very strong, and much less expensive than tiger tail, which is my second favorite stringing wire. You can pick up a roll at your local Wal-Mart in the sporting/fishing section.



Creating a hanging Pendant:

Often you will need to make an extension for a center pendant so it will hang gracefully instead of banging up against the necklace beading.

If you are stringing your heart, or other pendant, next to larger beads, simply make up a small matching bead and wire it on top of the heart to suspend the pendant slightly lower so it does not hit the larger beads.



Putting it all together:

With the Crimper bead and Crimper Tool: If you have a crimper tool and beads, add one crimper bead onto your fishing line, thread the line through one side of your closure unit. Thread the same line back through the crimper bead, press the crimper bead close to the closure unit and crimp. Clip your excess fishing line down enough to thread through a few beads.

Without the Crimper Bead and Crimper Tool:

You can also knot the fishing line to secure. Simply thread one end of your threading line through the loop on your necklace closure unit and tie a double knot close to your closure. Clip your excess fishing line down about 2 inches, enough to thread back through the first few beads.

Stringing Continued:

String 1/2 of your beads, add your hanging pendant with the added bead, and add the second half of your beads.

Thread the line through the opposite side of your closure unit. Very gingerly, and very close to the closure unit, either add another crimper bead or tie a knot to secure. Be sure to remove any slack in the line before you make your final knot. You want the tension to be tight so the beads lay next to each other, but you don't want it so tight that they rub together and lay too stiffly.



Stringing the Earrings:

Using the same technique you followed in adding a bead above your heart, add one bead above your small earring hearts and link onto the loop in your earring wires.

I chose to use black glass beads, but you can also make tiny black polymer clay beads if you do not have any glass beads on hand.

Once finished, you have a nice necklace and earring set that goes well with black, white or other solid color clothing.