

Pocket Watch Micro Image Collage

By Lisa Pavelka

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I love to work on tiny canvases. This project offers lots of visual interest and a nostalgic feel when you combine symbols and imagery in a mixed media format. Try your hand at the design above, the one that appears in the step-outs, or follow the basic instructions as a general guideline to create pieces with your own unique theme and style!

Save 15% off all of the Lisa Pavelka supplies needed for this project (and everything else at www.lisapavelka.com using coupon code LP2015 at checkout!

Tools & Materials

Fimo Soft Clay (1 block each): White, Indian Red, Gold, Copper, and Black
Fimo Decorating Gel
Lisa Pavelka's Watch Case Bezel
Lisa Pavelka Magic-Glos™ resin
Lisa Pavelka clay foil (Gold from the Expressions Collection)
Lisa Pavelka Photo Transfers (Vintage)
Lisa Pavelka Poly Bonder glue
Assorted findings and embellishments (i.e. pearls, charms, etc.)
Clay-dedicated pasta machine
Clay Blade
Acrylic Clay Roller
X-acto® type craft knife
Small, smooth ceramic work/baking tile
Oven thermometer (to check for temperature accuracy)
Ball tip stylus
Scissors
Tweezers
Deli or parchment paper
Optional: Lisa Pavelka UV Cure lamp, fine glitter, Kemper Pattern Cutters

Condition all clays by kneading before use. Start with the lightest colors first.

Part 1 – Image Transfer and Rosebuds

1. Cut a photo from the transfer sheet in a small square (about 3/8" by 3/8"). Optional: Print your own photo onto Lisa Pavelka blank inkjet waterslide transfer paper. Place face down over a piece of white clay rolled through the 6th largest setting of the pasta machine. Gently burnish into the clay with your finger. The clay will be quite thin. Wet the backing with water. After 1 minute, blot with a paper towel and slide off the backing. Set the backing aside for use in a later step. Rub a thin layer of liquid clay (Fimo Decorating Gel) over the image and trim excess clay away.

2. Make one or more tiny rosebuds by rolling a pinch of red clay into a small snake. Flatten the snake so that it is very thin, between your fingertips and roll until you have the desired number of "petal" layers for each bud. Cut off excess clay and bend and distort the "petal" edges with your fingertips or the craft knife to make them look more realistic. Roll the base of the buds into a cone shape and carefully slide off most of the cone, leaving the bottom under the petals flat using the clay blade. Bake these and the photo transfer on a tile in a preheated oven at 230°F for 10 minutes.

Part 2 - Multiple Color Skinner Blend Gradient Loaf:

3. While the image transfer and rosebuds are baking, create a template using a 3" x 4.5" index card as shown below. Cut the card into three sections. Recreate a rectangle from sheets of clay colors shown in diagram, rolled out through the largest setting of the pasta machine.

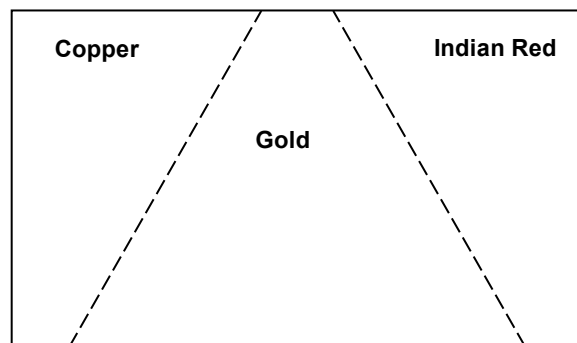


Diagram C

4. Fold the assembled rectangle in half and roll through the largest setting of the pasta machine. Always fold so that the colors along the outside edges match (i.e.: red should be folded over to touch red and copper to copper). Repeat this step until the gradient blend appears smooth (usually 25 – 30 passes, always folding in the same direction).

5. Once the blend is complete, trim the edges to make a uniform rectangle. Cut the trimmed strip in half, down the center (through all three colors) and stack the halved strips to create a strip of double thickness. Make sure the colors of each strip are aligned so they match. Lightly compress these layers with your roller to bond them together. Insert this strip vertically through the largest setting of the pasta machine to stretch and lengthen. Repeat this running through the 3rd, then the 5th largest settings to thin and elongate.

6. After completing the final pass through the 5th largest setting of the pasta machine, fan-fold the elongated strip at 1 / 2" wide intervals to make a blended loaf. Slice away the distorted outer end of the loaf with clay blade.

7. Cut a 1/8" thick slice from the loaf. Working on a deli sheet stretch and reduce the slice to about 1/16" thick using the roller. It should be slightly larger than the circle template found on the back of the watchcase packaging. Once you've checked the size, insert the clay through the 6th largest setting of the pasta machine with the gradient stripes of color facing vertically.

Part 3 – Creating the Bezel Insert

8. Press the bezel setting, facedown over the clay and apply enough pressure to create an imprint of the setting walls. Remove and cut along the inside of the interior line. Don't worry if your circle isn't perfect. We'll correct this in a later. Center the paper backing (saved from the transfer in Step 2 of Part 1) over the middle of the clay circle. Cut out around the outside edge of the paper with the craft knife and remove the clay in the center.

9. Apply a few small dots of Poly Bonder glue down over the inside of the watchcase. Lay the gradient clay circle into the case. Once the clay is in place, set the baked photo transfer into the center of the clay background. (Optional: darken the edges of the photo transfer with a black permanent marker to intensify and frame the image, before inserting into the glued cutout in the clay background.)

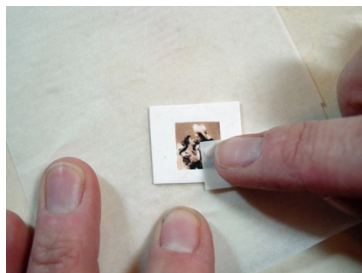
10. Stipple the clay background with the stylus. Doing this not only create an interesting texture, but helps fill any gaps around the transfer and along the bezel wall edges. This is one of my favorite ways to correct and conceal surface imperfections in clay.

11. Apply gold clay foil to a 1" x 2" sheet of black clay rolled through the second thinnest setting of the pasta machine, following the package directions for application. Cut thin, tapered strips of foiled clay. Bend, curl or swirl the strips over the clay background and photo in spirals and waves as desired. You can also free-hand cut or use small clay punches to create shapes like hearts from the foiled clay.

12. Add a tiny drop of Poly Bonder glue on the back of any rosebuds or embellishments you wish to use in your collage and press in place with tweezers. Bake the completed collage pendant in the preheated oven for 30 minutes.

13. When the bezel has cooled, add Magic Glos™ resin in the center of the bezel and spread to the edges. This should be thick enough to slightly form a domed surface without overflowing the edges. Cure for 10 - 15 minutes outdoors in full-sunlight or under a Lisa Pavelka UV cure lamp. Tip: Bubble that may form can be popped as long as they have risen to the surface. Pass a butane torch over the resin for one, quick second. Visit my website (www.lisapavelka.com) for more helpful tips and tricks for working with Magic Glos.™

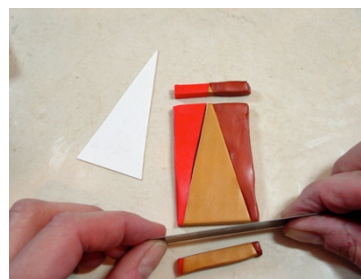
Tip: Pointed back chaton crystals (like the one seen in the Pocket Watch Collage at the beginning of the project) are added by drilling into the cured Magic Glos™ at least one hour after curing and then glued in place. You can also glue flatback crystals to the surface of cured Magic Glos™ with jewelry glue. Covering small crystals with Magic Glos™ will result in an optical illusion that makes them look like flat, tiny mirrors. Unless that is the effect you want, it's best to add crystals to the surface after curing.



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



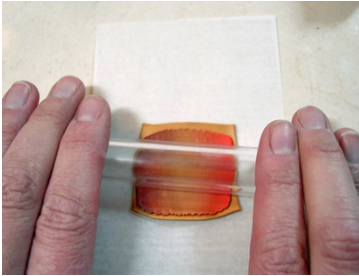
STEP 4



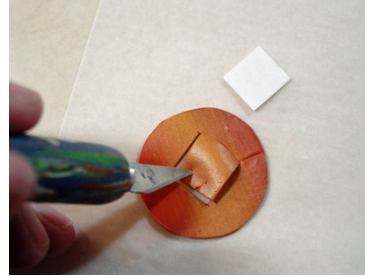
STEP 5



STEP 6



STEP 7



STEP 8



STEP 9



STEP 10



STEP 11



STEP 12



STEP 13