



## RETRO BEADS

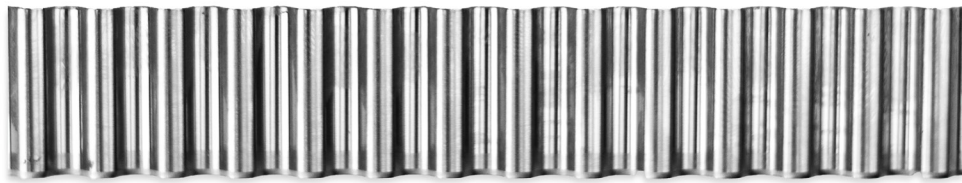
There are many ways to create stunning patterns in your beads using a wavy blade and this project is no exception. Learn how to create some very unique designs by using simple extrusions and a wavy blade. "I'll share the basics with you and, with a little design tweaking you will be able to create stunning beads with your own personal touch," invites Debbie to her tutorial.

## ABOUT DEBBIE CROTHERS

Debbie Crothers is an Australian polymer clay artist with over 19 years of experience. She teaches through online tutorials and has led workshops both in Australia and internationally. Her work focuses on blending different mediums with polymer clay, exploring new possibilities, and creating jewelry inspired by the stunning nature around her.

<https://www.debbiecrothers.com/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/debbiecrothers/>





## PRODUCTS IN THE ADVENT CALENDAR

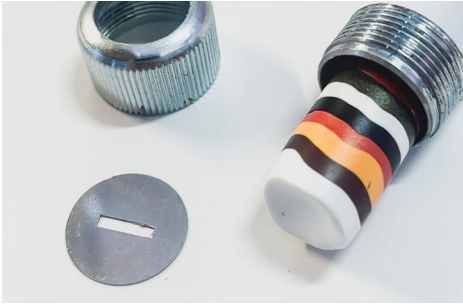
### WAVY BLADE

Blades are essential tools for any polymer clay artist. Enjoy using Lucy Struncova's Wavy Blade and discover the endless creative possibilities that Debbie explores with this versatile tool.

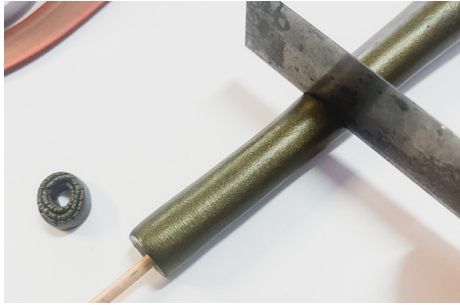
## LIST OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- polymer clay - several colors, black, white
- small clay canes in colors to match
- pasta machine
- ceramic tile
- acrylic rod
- straight tissue blade
- Lucy Struncova's Wavy Blade
- acrylic sheet
- skewers
- extruder and rectangular disc
- 1 cm circle cutter
- baking paper

# Advent Calendar



Condition 3 or 4 colours of clay and run through a medium thin setting on the pasta machine. Do the same with some black and some white clay. Cut out circles and stack, alternating colours. Reduce this stack so it will fit inside your extruder barrel and extrude your clay with a rectangular disc.



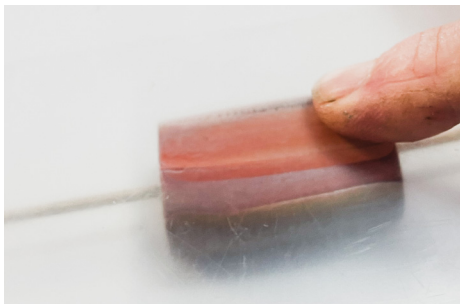
Condition coloured clay to match your extruded clay on a medium setting. Cut a bevel edge and roll around a skewer. Use an acrylic sheet to smooth and neaten the seam. Trim the ends. Your log of clay should be 8 mm in diameter and 4 cm in length. The skewer will create a thread hole in your bead and I find it much easier to do this right at the beginning of the process.



Trim the very end of your extruded clay away. Place the extrusion onto your log of clay and cut to the same length.



Continue adding lengths of extruded clay around your log until you have about 3 layers. Smooth everything over with an acrylic sheet and trim the ends to neaten.



Flatten the sides with your acrylic sheet and work your way around the log squaring it up. If it gets too long, flatten the ends. Continue until you have a nice, square log of clay.



Position your wavy blade along the length of the clay and cut with one hand while holding the clay in place with the finger on your opposite hand.



Once you have cut one side from your log, rotate and do the same with the remaining three sides.



Continue cutting slices off your log being careful to place your blade in the same position as the previous cut so you end up with "potato chip" like grooved slices. When you start to see too much of the core bead it's time to stop slicing. Keep the original clay log to turn into a bead at a later date.



Create an additional log of clay with a skewer down the center roughly the same size as the original log from step 2. Choose one of your favorite slices and position on this log, pressing down gently as you go.

# Advent Calendar



Choose another slice and place next to the first, pressing down gently.



Roll over with an acrylic rod to embed gently into the log of clay. You don't have to have them perfect at this point.



Choose a couple of canes you have on hand that match the coloring of your bead and cut some ultra thin slices.



Position these slices on your bead using a needle tool. You can fill the space left where wavy slices didn't meet.



Create a thin string of clay and cut some very thin slices. Place these onto your bead using a needle tool.



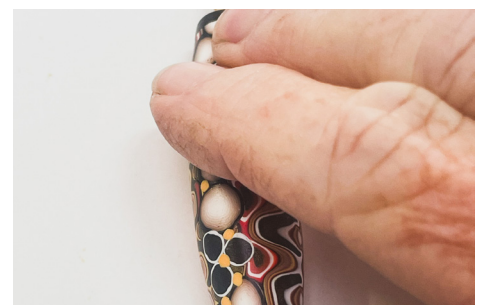
Smooth over with an acrylic sheet to embed everything well. It's at this point you want to make sure your surface is beautifully smooth. Use a smoothing tool to work in any problematic areas.



Trim the ends. Cut two circles of medium thin black clay.



Remove the skewer from your bead and place the black clay ends onto your bead then replace the skewer. Smooth the black ends onto your bead with a smoothing tool then shape the bead slightly using your acrylic sheet.



Shape your bead with your fingers by flattening on your work surface and gently doming your bead.

# Advent Calendar



Make sure your ends are neat and your clay surface is nice and smooth.



For another Retro Bead variation, create a log of clay without a skewer in the middle and cover this with approximately 3 layers of extrusions. Smooth over with an acrylic sheet.



Holding the log in both hands, twist each end in opposite directions so your clay extrusions begin to spiral. Square this log up as previously instructed.



Position your log so it's standing on end and slice with a wavy blade downwards.



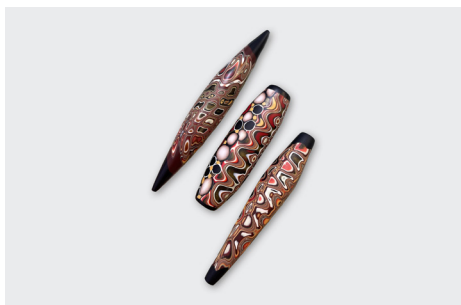
Continue slicing around your clay until you reach the coloured log in the middle. Save this core to create a bead later.



Create another log of clay (without a skewer) for your bead core and wrap two slices around this log pressing down gently as you do so.



Cut two circles of black clay and place on the end of your bead. Shape your bead into a bullet shape on both ends and make sure the black ends are well smoothed over.



Shape your bead into an elongated pod shape using your hands or your acrylic sheet. Or experiment with other shapes. Add a thread hole with a skewer across the top of the bead. Bake for 30 minutes and your beads are ready.



## ADDITIONAL INSPIRATION

Explore more creative possibilities with Debbie's other online tutorials on her website. Learn how to craft other stunning wavy patterns from polymer clay using the Wavy Blade, with clear, step-by-step guidance. For more details, visit her tutorial page on the website.

[www.debbicrothers.com/product/wavy-blade-beads-a-polymer-clay-tutorial](http://www.debbicrothers.com/product/wavy-blade-beads-a-polymer-clay-tutorial)