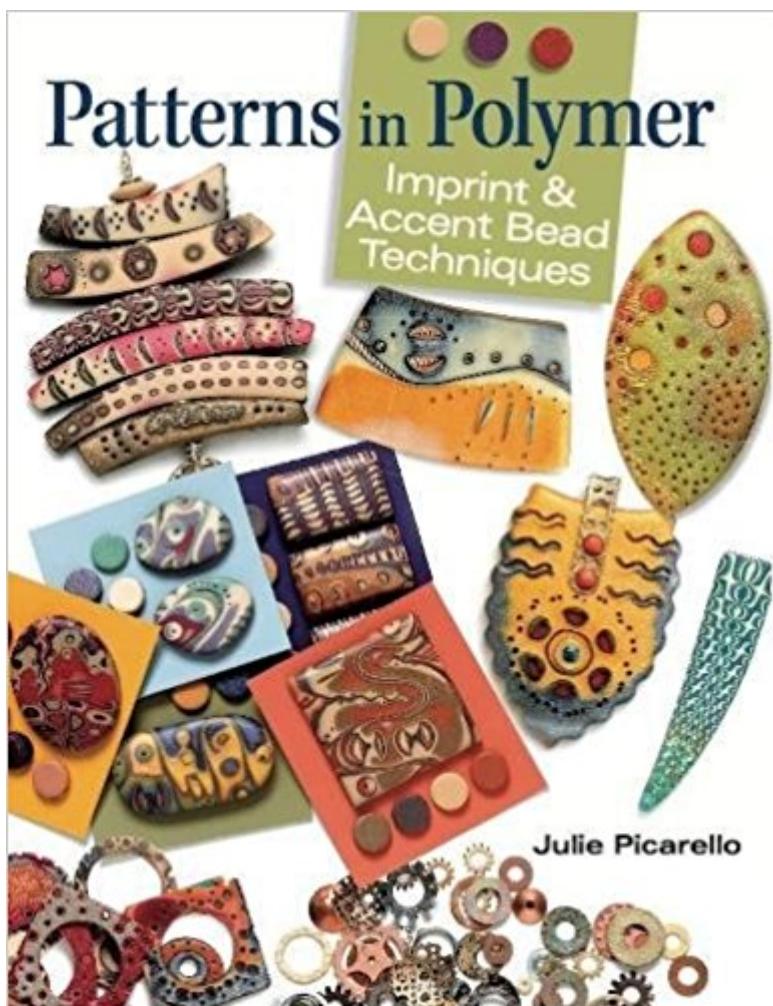


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# Patterns In Polymer: Imprint And Accent Bead Techniques



## **Synopsis**

With her unmatched eye for color, color mixing and layering, well-known artist and fan favorite Julie Picarello helps beginners and advanced polymer artisans design, texture and finish gorgeous art beads using relatively simple techniques. In-depth introduction sections cover basics, color inspiration and recipes, and needed tools and materials. The book includes 7 mini projects and 10 finished jewelry projects, while callouts at the beginning of each project let the readers know exactly what specialized techniques will be learned. It's the color that makes polymer clay truly exciting, and this book uses color like you've never seen it before.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

As a respected and sought-after artist and teacher, Julie Picarello has become a show favorite and attracts crowds of followers eager to view and purchase her signature pieces. Julie is an active board member in the polymer clay community and also teaches for discerning polymer guilds. Her teaching has taken her to many venues and major shows throughout the U.S. and in Europe, including the Bead&Button Show. She is also the program chair for the 2010 International Polymer Clay Association Conference.

I could not wait to receive this book - and I was not disappointed. It is one of the very best polymer clay books I own - and I own many. As soon as I received it, I read it cover to cover. I have read it twice since. And, while I have a tendency to scan the text rather than "read" the text (I am a visual

kind of learner), I found that the text in this book was clear, and offered some great tips. This book focuses on the mokume gane (or impress/distress and slice off) style of polymer clay design. If you like the pattern/design style shown on the front cover items, you will not be disappointed. Having had a class with Julie Picarello at Clay Carnival Las Vegas in 2010 (an annual event that I HIGHLY recommend), I wanted more. And this book fulfilled that need. I consider myself an intermediate-to-advanced PC artist and this book gave another direction/design style to the mokume gane work that I have already mastered. I would consider this a "technique" book more than a "projects" book. Some books start with a project (pendant, earrings, etc) and hope you get the idea of the technique. In this book, each adaptation of the mokume gane technique is taken to a project end, but the focus is on the technique and how that technique can be modified, or incorporated into, a variety of projects. I would not recommend this book as a first choice for a new polymer clay artist. While it does cover some of the basics, there are other books more suitable to someone just getting started or in the early stages of proficiency. However, this book also offers great suggestions on out-of-the ordinary imprint/distressing tools as well as color mixing. Not a color theory book, just some great information on mixing color and the importance of high contrast for attractive design. A polymer clay newbie would do well to own this book considering it a design style to which one aspires, not for basics on conditioning, baking, and pasta machine selection. Julie's design sense is wonderful, reminding us that blank space is not a bad thing. Her combinations of color, texture, and accents makes her work stand out from the others. I could go on and on, but let me mention 2 things that made the purchase of this book well worthwhile: 1. the polymer clay "rivet", and 2. the use of "drop outs" and leaving open space in the mokume gane slices. This book offers a lot of information as well as inspiration and I am definitely glad I purchased it. I rank it equally as informative, as creative, and as helpful as the books that I own by Donna Kato and Judy Belcher; books which I refer to over and over again. Thank you, Julie.

Full disclosure, I have met Julie and my delight with her work is heavily influenced by her extraordinarily likable personality; that aside, this is one of my favorite polymer clay books--I consider myself proficient in the polymer arts, and I still discover new ideas when I refer back to this work. Julie's style is so unmistakable that the projects themselves are not (for me) the main appeal, but the ways in which she gets there--very often I find that it's the smallest details that are the most valuable--those, 'why didn't I think of that?' moments that make all the difference. Like Julie, I share a great fascination with using commonplace hardware tools to create impressions--but her color theory was a serious revelation. Frankly, I struggle with color--agonizing over getting them

right--and her simple accessible method was like a light bulb going on. Her suggestion for using ordinary candy paper to store and smooth has been a tool I have gratefully used ever since-- and her method for creating tiny accent 'jewels' from resin has been a life saver on occasion, as has been the tip for making absolutely perfect matching cuts in thick slabs of clay. If your guild ever has the opportunity to bring her in as an instructor, don't hesitate--watching this woman work will leave you with more ideas and inspirations than you'll know what to do with.

Living way out in the boonies with no access to a guild and not having funds to fly around the country to attend classes I depend on books and the internet to self-teach. And even if you have those available to you Julie's book is still a must have for your PC reference bookshelf. It's truly "creme de la creme". This is not a surface treatment book! The unique patterns/colors are 100% clay which can also incorporate metal foil and/or alcohol inks. My impression is that Julie has taken the technique of mokume gane to a whole new and exciting level. Each technique/project chapter is logically laid out. Starts with complete material list and color recipes. Step-by-step instructions are provided accompanied with clear photos. The only thing better would be the opportunity to attend one of her classes. It's seems she holds little if any "artistic secrets" back from the reader. The sharing of her trademark custom color blended clay that she uses in 75% of all her custom blends bowled me over. Not to mention the additional recipes for some of her favorite color blends. The material reference list in the back is also invaluable. I've purchased MANY polymer clay books over the last three years. Julie's book is one of the few I haven't donated to Goodwill. It has rightfully earned a prominent spot on my studio shelf.

This book has become a new favorite of mine. I want to have it around and want to look at it every chance I get: it's just beautiful! The information in it is great, too. For me, it completes the link between polymer clay and design. It shows me how to use punches, gold leaf, and pieces of metal to add to the texture and finished look of a polymer pendant or bead. What a clever and forgiving technique for making such lovely pieces! It really showed me something NEW. I would never have thought of using the techniques in the book to achieve the "look" for which I have been searching. It is well-presented, and the pictures are so clear I can almost smell the clay. Thank you, Julie Picarello!

This is the most helpful, fun, and informative book I have seen on polymer clay! Julie goes into such detail about her designs and shares lots of tips and shortcuts to achieving her trademark look. The

pictures are beautiful! Thank you Julie for this wonderful handbook.

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