

“Laser Cut” Technique and Pendant Workshop

Jana Roberts Benzon



The term “Laser Cut” describes the visual effect of this eye-catching technique, with its precise angled cuts, which reveal intricate, delicate designs; there isn’t actually a Laser involved, so no worries that you’ll need to purchase a new tool to add to your polymer clay tool arsenal ☺

Come join me for two days filled with ‘out of the box’ polymer education, plus fun, relaxation and laughs. There are so many interesting, unique and exciting patterns and components that can be created using my Laser Cut technique. During our workshop, we’ll spend the first day, and part of day two, exploring some of the different ways to create these Laser Cut components.....you’ll have plenty of personal time to experiment and relax into that wonderful “polymer creating zone” (you know, the one where the world falls away ☺). Then, (on day two), with your newly created Laser Cut components, you’ll fashion a beautiful pendant (or two, plus earrings and more if there is time).

My workshops are always filled to the brim with original, innovative and (as mentioned) “out of the box” skills (ones that encompass all of polymer, and not just the “Laser Cut” technique) ~ your creative self will be overflowing with new, exciting ideas and ways of creating! I so look forward to our time together, and am confident that you will treasure the “moment out of time” weekend we’ll have!!

To see more Laser Cut examples, visit the “Archive : Laser Cut” page on my website
(www.janarobertsbenzon.com)

Additionally, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have about the workshop.

My email address is jana@janarobertsbenzon.com

Jana Roberts Benzon creates works that build on her strong background in textiles and color. Although she never had formal art training, her own intrinsic creativity was honed through observation at her artist-mother's knee, and by living in a home filled with exotic textiles and artistic flair. Jana's focus turned to polymer clay when she discovered its limitless creative potential -- she has been its slave ever since, creating detailed, intricate work from an intuitive, emotional and very personal 'place'. Jana teaches workshops internationally, and has been published in numerous online and print media articles and features, including (as one of forty polymer artists) in Lark Books Masters: Polymer Clay. Jana has been awarded in several competitions and sells her work through art galleries, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Jana lives and creates in the shadows of the majestic Wasatch Mountain Range of Utah.

Laser Cut Workshop Materials List – Jana Roberts Benzon

- **Pasta Machine, crank, ample sized clamp(s)**
- **Brand new stiff cutting blade** (I prefer the Kato Nu-Blade) **and Brand new tissue blade** (I prefer "Thomas Scientific", sold as a 'medical' blade at polymerclayexpress.com)
- **"Working" blade**...this is a stiff, older cutting blade
- **Cutter** (in the size and shape you'd like your pendant to be; I'll bring some to share)
- **Ranger Distress Embossing Powders, optional**, in colors that coordinate with your clay color choices (Available at polymerclayexpress.com...I love this product! I'll also supply these for a small fee)
- **Work surface** (You'll need a **glass [preferred]** work surface or a SMOOTH 12" x 12" [30.5x30.5cm] tile for this project)
- **Brayer or acrylic rod**
- **Rubber Tipped Tool, optional**, size 0, "Clay Shaper Taper Chisel" –while optional, it's very useful! Links:
<http://www.wholelottawhimsy.com/wo/content/shopping/product?s=4945948&c=4743980&p=2458>
<http://www.heresyminiatures.com/clayshapers.htm> (located in the UK)
- **Plastic wrap or plastic Deli wrap sheets**
- **Liquid clay** (I prefer Translucent Liquid Sculpey for this technique)
- **Texture sheet** (or anything to make a patterned or random texture)
- **A few small bathroom tiles** (about 4x4" [10.2x10.2 cm])
- **An old toothbrush**
- **Ruler**
- **Jewelry pliers, cutters** (don't purchase these if you don't have them – we'll share!)

• **Adornments, crystals or beads (optional)**, that you'd like to add to your pendant -- flat back crystals or small cabochons, beads, spacer beads, decorative headpins, etc.

• **Polymer Clay - *conditioned before class!***: (Just short of *requiring* that you use Kato clay, I *highly* suggest it - I can't guarantee good results with another type of clay! Please do not use Sculpey III or FIMO soft. Email me for very useful – and aggravation alleviating- Kato conditioning instructions).

Please bring **three ounces each of black, white, and cream** (achieved by mixing a small amount of brown with white clay) and **three ounces each of four (or more) different colors** of your choosing (that coordinate well with each other). Since we'll have plenty of time for exploring and creating, it wouldn't hurt for you to bring extra clay in different colors...what is listed above is the minimum amount needed. **You may also need translucent clay (please read the extremely important information below to determine if you need translucent):**

Laser Cut requires that the clay be softer, and not stiff as traditional Kato is known to be. Stiffer Kato can be softened up with the addition of translucent clay. Newer formulations of Kato are softer when fresh from the factory (this new formulation does stiffen up though, after a little while on the shelf, so check yours), so if that's what you have (soft and fresh Kato – similar to traditional Premo consistency), then it's perfect for Laser Cut and you do not need to add translucent. But, **IF you're using a stiffer Kato formulation**, you'll need to add translucent clay at a rate of 3 parts colored clay to 1 part translucent to make it softer (as mentioned, similar to Premo consistency). Add the translucent during conditioning and until it is thoroughly mixed in. **Add the translucent to ANY or ALL of the clay called for above if it is stiff (the black, white, cream and four –or more- colors)**. Please bring extra translucent clay with you if you have any questions about consistency...I can check it when we're together in class. Store the sheets of clay rolled to the thickest setting of the pasta machine between sheets of plastic or deli wrap (not paper/waxed paper).

Please, please contact me if you have any questions about adding translucent (or color choices, or anything else!) - I'd love to hear from you! Email: jana@janarobertsbenzon.com or call 801-718-8903...*I mean it! I don't want you worrying over this* 😊

Other: •Flower or other canes: Please bring any canes (flowers, leaves, 'simple', non-complex canes) you might have that coordinate with the colors of clay you're bringing (and, if you've extra, bring some to share with others!). These canes should be about 1/8 - 1/4" in diameter (tiny!) by about 3 or 4" in length, and can be made from any clay brand. I will bring some to sell if you don't have any.