



Iris Mishly's  
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## **iNKredible Macrame**

Tie the knot! Micro Macrame & Polymer Clay

### **70's Dance!**

~Earrings~

Polymer Clay & Micro Macrame Tutorial



PolyPediaOnline Express Tutorial

# **iNKredible Macrame**

## **70s Dance Earrings**

Your complete "how-to"  
**Polymer clay & alcohol inks**

By Iris Mishly

**Class level – Bachelor in Micro Macrame (Beginners)**

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### **ALCOHOL INKS 101**

**Alcohol inks are basically alcohol with ink**, the alcohol "carries" the color, then it evaporates away, quite quickly, and only the dye is left behind.

**\*1\***

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- You usually **buy alcohol inks in small plastic bottles**, either individually or in sets, depending on the brand and the shop.  
The two brands I know of are Ranger's Adirondack line and Jacquard's Piñata line. The two brands work in the same way and can be used both in the same project as well. Your purchase will likely be based on availability and your personal color preferences.  
The Adirondack colors are more muted and earthy than the Piñata colors. The Piñata ones are more intense and include opaque white, which is my favorite.
- **The ink colors are intense**, and you don't need much for most applications. Those little bottles may not look like much, but you can do quite a bit of crafting before you'll run out.
- **You can mix colors** (even between brands) until you have the color you wanted. Start slow, you can always add more.  
To combine colors, apply drops from different bottles of ink onto into a small cup/bottle or artist palette and mix with a brush.
- You can **mix the inks into polymer clay** too.  
In addition to using them on the clay (baked or unbaked), you can also mix alcohol inks into the clay - colored, white or translucent.  
Drop a few drops of ink onto the clay, just a bit, you can always add more later. Allow the ink to dry before mixing it into the clay. This could prevent staining your hands with the ink, or work with gloves.
- **One of the best things about alcohol inks** is that it doesn't require advanced polymer skills. Free style are welcome when it comes to working with this material.  
Of course, if you're like me, looking for VERY organized structures and accuracy that's also one of the difficult things about working with alcohol inks - but it is always a challenge to take a difficult thing and turn it into good :)
- **To keep the ink from rubbing off over time**, especially when it comes to jewelry, consider sealing it with a very thin layer of translucent clay / liquid clay (before curing) or some kind of varnish/ resin (after curing).
- **Avoid getting ink on your clothes**, carpets or other fabrics. In one of my projects I did get a spray of red onto my cloths and work surface. These will easily wiped off a ceramic tile, but I they don't come out of fabric so well.
- If you **get ink on your hands**, you can try "conditioning" it off with clay or clean with a baby wipe. If not, don't worry, it will come off in a day or so of normal washing.
- When **mixing a non-clay product such as alcohol ink into polymer clay**, it's better finish it (curing) as quickly as possible. The longer it sits around, the more likely it is to



start to fade and lose its intense color. Try creating and finishing (baking) your piece as soon as possible.

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Alcohol **inks can be used on either unbaked, baked and liquid polymer clay.**

In this tutorial I will use it on un-baked clay.

If you want to see other classes using baked or liquid clay, please check all [other INKredible tutorials](#).

**The basic materials** for working with alcohol inks are polymer clay (naturally), alcohol inks and felt or applicator tool for easy applying.

When it comes to advanced projects you can add metal leaf, acrylic paints, stamps and more, options are endless.

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## VIDEOS

The photos in the tutorial are accompanied by a complete video to demonstrate the project from start to finish. These photos were taken from the video itself and are offered here in the PDF file for your convenience.

### **LINKS TO YOUR VIDEOS**

**INKredible Macrame - 70s Dance Earrings**

**Access password - 70sdance1922**

**<https://vimeo.com/135266578>**

**INKredible - Base Painted Sheets**

**Access password - painted3161**

**<https://vimeo.com/135248446>**

**INKredible - Finishing Your Beads**

**Access password - finishing1516**

**<https://vimeo.com/135248334>**

**INKredible Macrame - Basic Macrame Knots**

**Access password - macrame1613**

**<https://vimeo.com/135248192>**

This project includes a special benefit **100% online customer support**. You can email me with any question to: [imishly@gmail.com](mailto:imishly@gmail.com) and I will assist you in any way I can.

I hope you will enjoy this tutorial and find many uses for the designs in your own creations.

The tutorial is written with an assumption that you are already familiar with the basic techniques (such as conditioning clay).

**\*3\***



**The file and video contains lots of information. I recommend reading/viewing all of it, at least once, before you start creating your wonderful art! 😊**

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Legal actions will be taken against those who deliberately act against these requests.

I am sorry that I have to mention this, but unfortunately, it has become necessary to address this issue.

If you have any questions on this matter please contact me at [imishly@gmail.com](mailto:imishly@gmail.com)

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## Tools and materials for clay beads -

### Tools:

- Pasta machine;
- Acrylic/metal roller;
- Working surface (I use ceramic tile);
- Stainless steel blade (for polymer clay)
- Cookie cutters in various shapes and sizes
- Ranger felt applicator tool or felt squares (pre-cut, or cut from a larger piece of felt). You can also use cotton swabs/ balls/pads/cosmetic Sponges etc.
- Knitting needle or any other pointy tool to use while drawing on your base painted sheet
- Coarse sanding paper for texturing
- Gloves (optional)
- Eyelets (optional)
- Drill bits
- Oven for curing, thermometer is also optional.

### Materials:

- Pre conditioned clay in all kinds of colors
- Acrylic paints
- Spray bottle for alcohol 95% (you can use an old perfume bottle)
- Alcohol ink, I'm using Ranger's Adirondack & Piñata lines
- Stazon ink
- Baby wipes to clean your hands
- Parchment/wax paper - to keep your working surface clean while working with inks.
- Liquid polymer clay of your choice
- Varnish / Resin

## Tools and materials for Micro Macrame –

The full list of materials used in micro macramé knotting is included in a separate PDF file, as well as basic knots video-

### INKredible Macrame - Basic Macrame Knots

Access password - macrame1613

<https://vimeo.com/135248192>

### Materials used in this project –

For each earring –

0.8 wax cords; 2 X 40 cm (16 inch); brown and blue.

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Use coupon code **10%OFF** for discount on all classes!**

**\*5\***



## 70s dance EARRINGS

The 70s dance earrings are created using 2 different sheets and techniques – The first one is made of acrylic paints and inks, the 2<sup>nd</sup> is made by applying acrylic paints to a clay sheet, then folding, sandwiching the paint between 2 layers of clay. The effect created is a beautiful raised pattern of the paint, later enhanced using the black stazon ink.



To learn how to create the base sheets, please refer to the video titled "INKredible - Base Painted Sheets"

The brown base sheet is demonstrated in a separate PDF – "base painted sheets".



**Brown sheet –**  
Spray your sheet with alcohol 95%, this will "wake" the alcohol inks up, spreading better on the base sheet.



Place drops of alcohol inks all around the sheet. I'm using a mix of Adirondack and piñata inks.

Absorb any excess ink, if remains, with a piece of felt or paper towel.

Set aside for full dry



**Blue sheet –**

Start with a medium thin sheet of clay. Mine was green on top, blue at the bottom. (front layer won't be visible)



Cutting the sheet in half



Placing acrylic paints in 2 colors (FolkArt brand)



Spreading the color with my finger.  
Amount of paint should be enough to create raised pattern, not too much or too little. Add a bit and if necessary add more.

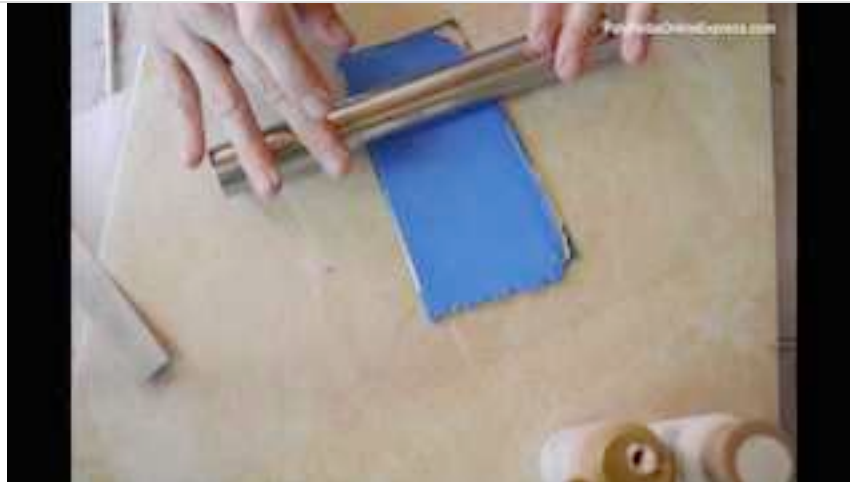


Place 2<sup>nd</sup> sheet on top of the 1<sup>st</sup> one with the paint on it.



Face down





Secure both layers with a roller, this will cause the paint to spread inside the 2 sheets and when separated will create the raised effect.



Separate the 2 sheets.



Here is the final sheet, not sure the raised paint areas are visible in this photo but after we apply the stazon ink you will see it clearly.

IMPORTANT – set aside to dry completely, make take a couple of hours or more.

Not every brand of acrylic paint works best on every brand of polymer clay so you should make several tests before you find your favorite mix. if you find the paint stays sticky for more than 24 hours that means it is not compatible with polymer.



Stazon inkpad –  
Black was chosen, you can use any color you have. Black will give the best contrast with these paint color choices.



Tap all over the sheet to fill it with ink, more/less dark – up to you.



Decorate your sheet with ink patterns.

**Stains warning** - I don't like working with gloves, but Alcohol inks can really stain your fingers, carpet or cloths. Take extra care with these when working with it.

Use a dedicated Velcro applicator for your inking. This ergonomic, solid wood tool is perfect for the precise, mess free application of Alcohol Inks to your polymer clay projects. The alcohol ink applicator is great for multiple techniques. Simply attach the included felt to the applicator tool,



apply alcohol products, then tap.

You can make your own felt pieces by cutting them from a roll of felt. You can also make your own tool with either a wooden dowel or wood block (like a stamp mount) by attaching the hook side of a Velcro piece to the end and cutting up some white/neutral felt to the same size.

Felt is mostly included with the applicators, and you can buy refill pads.

==> Make sure you do not purchase the foam applicator, it is not suitable for alcohol inks.

I purchased my applicator online on Etsy, they cost about 5\$ and refill cost the same. It's worth the investment.

You can also squeeze the Alcohol Ink directly onto your surface. This can give you a marbled effect. You can either let the ink dry in the circular pattern, or you can rework it with the applicator or your finger.



I'm drawing a pattern on the felt piece – square and inside a dot of blue. Both inks by piñata.

Stamping the sheet



You can draw – zigzags, commas, circles, X, flowers, squares, triangles, brackets, waves, spirals, leaves, grids and so much more.

Adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> layer of inks once the 1<sup>st</sup> one dries.



Next step is to decide what would be our final product from this sheet - is it going to be earrings which are supposed to be thin and light weight? A focal bead with extra back layer? The base sheet is quite thin and this will allow you to use it as it as or add layers as required.



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I used the layer as it is (medium-thin), shield shape cutter; added a small circle of the blue sheet on top of the brown one, secured and decorated with an eyelet.

I added a triangular cut in the top of the earring to allow the macramé knotting

Bake according to manufacture instructions.

To seal the top surface I'm using 2 parts epoxy clear resin. Please refer to my video on finishing techniques – link available above.

## Congratulations!

You have completed the class!

**Please refer to the video for the full instructions of the Micro Macrame knotting (link above).**

Make sure you check the PDF file included and 3 diagram pages.

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial and will use it as a reference for many future projects.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [imishly@gmail.com](mailto:imishly@gmail.com) if you have any questions. I would also love to hear what you think about this tutorial in my guestbook and see pictures of your creations.

<http://www.polypediaonlineexpress.com/polypediaonline-express-guest-book/>



This pattern sheet was used in another micro macramé project as a focal bead; if you are interested in combining your beads in elegant, stylish knotting please refer to this project offered in my [polypediaonlineexpress shop](http://polypediaonlineexpress.com).

## **iNK**redible Polymer 2

Create Fabulous Designs Using Alcohol Inks On Polymer Clay



### **Atlantic Breeze**

~Earrings~

Polymer Clay & Micro Macramé Tutorial