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I would like to give credit and thanks to all of these wonderful artists ([Linda Gertsch](#), [Tom Jeffrey](#), and Susan Bradshaw) for their inspiration. I would also like to extend great thanks to Sunni Bergeron, who converted my crude directions and pictures into a work of art and the polymer clay artists who tested the tutorial and provided valuable input: [Kellie Robinson](#), [Tania McCulloch](#), [Tonja Lenderman](#) and [Sunni Bergeron](#). If you would like to view some truly exquisite art created using the forerunner of the Feather cane, please consider visiting the web site of [Grove and Grove](#).

[Part One](#)

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Supplies:

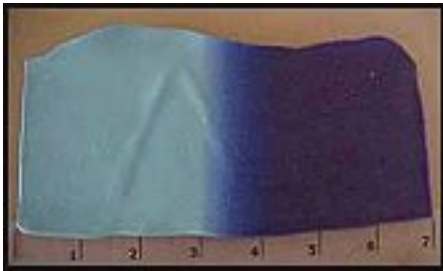
- 3 ounces Color A (Premo Purple)
- 3 ounces Color B (Premo Turquoise mixed with equal amount of Premo white)
- 1 ounce Color C (sheet) - I used a ratio of 3 parts purple to 1 part black
- 3.5 ounces Color D: 3 ounces Zinc Yellow mixed with 0.5 ounces of Raw Sienna
- 4 ounces Color E: 3 ounces Zinc Yellow mixed with 1 ounce Turquoise
- 2 ounces Color F: 1 ounce Zinc Yellow and 1 ounce Ultramarine Blue
- Pasta machine or something to roll with
- Tissue blade or something to slice with
- Brayer (optional) to flatten with
- Wax paper (optional) to lay the long sheet of clay on
- Clean work surface



Step One:

Run Color A, B and ultramarine blue through your pasta machine at the thickest setting (that's #1 on my nine setting Atlas pasta machine). Cut and arrange the colors as shown in the picture.

Blend the clay colors. Use the #3 setting (on my nine setting Atlas pasta machine) or medium thick.



Your blended sheet of clay should look similar to this.

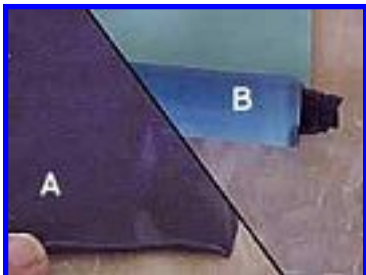


Step Two:

Set your pasta machine on medium thin (#5 on my Atlas). Insert the dark end of your Skinner blend into your pasta machine as shown and run it through to lengthen it some more.

Then set your pasta machine on thin, but not the thinnest (#7 on my Atlas), insert the dark end and run through the pasta machine once more.

[Click image for larger picture](#)



Step Three:

Starting at the **dark** end of the blended sheet, **begin** to roll the blended sheet into a jelly roll.

[Click image for larger picture](#)



Step Four:

Continue rolling until you run out of the darker clay and you've made one complete revolution of the Turquoise/White mix.

Stop.

[Click image for larger picture](#)



Step Five:

At this point, turn the cane over and fold the sheet back onto itself. Wrap it halfway back around the log in the reverse direction.

Stop.



Step Six:

Continue reversing back and forth on the same half of the log, making each wrap about 1/4 inch shorter than the last one as shown above.

Stop when you have about 2-3 inches of the sheet remaining.

[Click on image for larger picture](#)



Step Seven:

Flip your cane over (if it isn't already) so it looks like the cane on the left side of the picture.

Pick up your pencil or chopstick and lay it centered on the half where the Skinner blend is folded back and forth. See the cane on the right side of the picture.

Now push!!! Squish the chopstick or pencil into the log until you have a nicely defined channel. It will flatten the log, but that's okay.

Set your chopstick or pencil aside.

Click image for larger picture



Step Eight:

Now, begin folding the turquoise mix back and forth **only** in the depression you just created with the chop stick or pencil.

See the photo of the completed log... it's rather squished at this point, as a result of pressing in the chop stick/pencil to create the indentation... but don't worry! :)

Click image for larger picture



Step Nine: Roll the log (horror! You've been told not to roll canes, but please do this time!) on your work surface to smooth it back into a round log shape.

Don't press too hard. You do not want to reduce this log, you only want to smooth it back into a round shape.



This is the rounded cane sliced. Notice how the dark area is slightly off center. Voila, you now have your "eye." Looks pretty cool, huh?

Now set this cane aside to rest while we create the rest of the Peacock Feather.

Click here to go to [Part Two](#)

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Step Eleven:

Create a Skinner Blend with Color D and Color E using the thickest setting on your pasta machine.



Step Twelve:

Roll the Skinner blend sheet into a log, with the darker color on your left and the lighter color on your right.



Step Thirteen:

Shorten the log into a plug.



Step Fourteen:

Flatten the plug into a block shape and...



...give it a quarter turn to place the dark side away from you and the light side toward you as shown above. Stretch the cane out by grabbing the right and left sides and pulling them apart so you end up with a l-o-n-g rectangle



Step Fifteen:

Run Color F through the pasta machine on the thickest setting and make it fit the length of the rectangle.



Step Sixteen:

Pinch one end of the rectangle... Feed it through your pasta machine on the thickest setting making a very, very l-o-n-g ribbon and then cut into several 2 to 3 inch pieces.



Step Seventeen:

Lay one piece, Skinner blend side down, on your work surface. Put second piece next to the first with the dark EDGE on your work surface next to the dark end of the first piece. This will give you an "L" shape. Butt the base of the piece standing on end up against the piece flat on the work surface.



Step Eighteen:

Leaving the edge touching your work surface, fold the second piece over on top of the first piece. Continue adding pieces, always with the dark edge on your worksurface, and folding it over on top of the previous pieces.



Step Nineteen:

Keep adding pieces until you've got them all stacked together.



Step Twenty:

Your cane should now look like this picture if you flip it on its side.

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Step Twenty One:

Pick up your cane and turn the flat side toward you with the dark end on the bottom side and the light end up as shown above. Grip the left and right sides and pull them apart to reduce (elongate) your feather cane. Make it about the same length as your "eye" cane. With your thumb, make a depression in the dark area as shown above where the "eye" cane will go.



Step Twenty Two:

From the end, your cane should look like this, with a hollowed out area...



Step Twenty Three:

Continue reducing until the feather is twice the length of your "eye" cane, then cut the feather into two sections. Lay the "eye" cane into the depression in one section of the clay.



Step Twenty Four:

Be sure to check which end is up when you add the "eye" cane! You want the "frog" in the horseshoe shape to face the bottom of the feather cane as shown here.



Step Twenty Five:

Press the components together starting at one end, and trying not to capture any air inside the cane. Then squash the feather into a plump rounded triangle shape as shown.



Here is a slice of the finished Peacock Feather!

These are examples of what you can use the peacock canes for.



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