

The first few images are of the components of the face. You can build your own cat using your own image. See my "Ellie" face cane, beginning with the [August](#) issue of Polyzine for instructions on putting together a basic face cane. This was my first face cane and I made many mistakes but I learned a lot.

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Supplies

Polymer clay colors
orange, yellow, green, white, champagne,
brown, gold, silver and gray

Tools

Roller
Cutter
Pasta Machine
(optional)



Step One:

The face components. I used a picture of an actual cat, made each section, set it on the picture to size it, then covered it with a thin sheet of a dark brown-gray clay. I started with the nose because it was close to the center, and worked around it. The stripes on the forehead and side of the face are made of the cat's face color, the brown-gray and a mixture of the two.



Step Two:

Here I'm filling in with the basic cat color to get the final shape of the cat's face.



Step Three:

The multiple logs have been pressed together carefully to keep out air bubbles, the face is filled out, ears added. The whole face is wrapped with brown-gray clay to give it definition.

Here is where I realized I should have made the nose smaller. The nose is central and the center of the cane stays closer to the same side than the outside areas.



Step Four:

Now for the outside color. I chose a medium blue because I like the contrast to the colors in the cat. I put logs into the areas that I wanted to stay in the shape they were in.



Step Five: To help turn the outside into a round shape, I put it onto a saucer. Then I added more blue as needed to keep it round and keep the cat in the center of the saucer..



Step Six: Once I had as much of the blue background as I wanted, I added a thin layer of gold/silver around it just for interest. I surrounded that with a thicker layer of the black/gray and smoothed out all the air bubbles. I didn't worry too much about the clay edges looking a little ragged because I knew that would be lost in the distortion of the cane ends when it was reduced.

What I learned:

I could see that logs were pressing into the eyes when I packed the cat. I should have stopped there and repacked it.

The face kept leaning to one side. I should have straightened it all up before I packed it.

I just eyeballed the picture when making the cane. If I had put the cane directly over the picture occasionally, I would have had the perspective better.

Make WAY more background color than you think you'll need. Like twice as much!

All in all, for my first face cane, I'm still proud of it.