

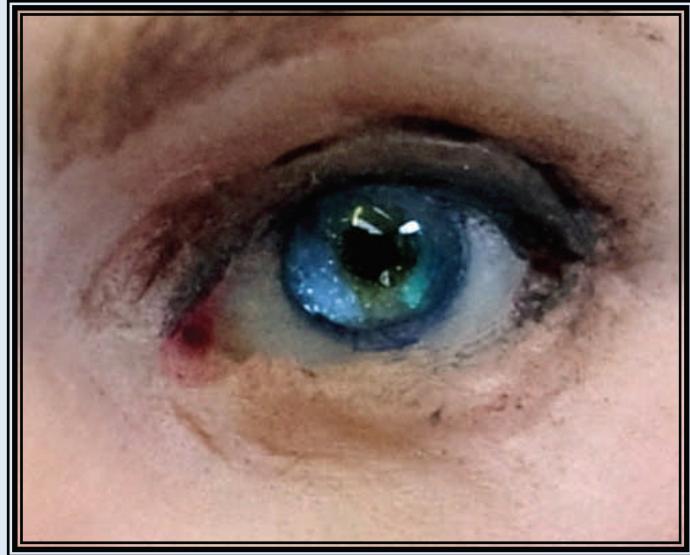
Sephi's Eyes

Cane Clay and Marbled Clay Method

A Tutorial by Renata Jansen

"Painting The Clouds"

Contact: jansenclouds@yahoo.co.uk



A Step by Step Tutorial by Renata, demonstrating how to make realistic, lens covered eyes, using both a cane method and also a marbled clay method!



In memory of my beautiful, precious angel Sephi who changed my life forever and left far, far too soon.
She will live on in my heart always and be a part of everything I do forever more.

Cane Method



CANE:

1. Choose the colours you would like to use for your eyes, any clay will do but add a little mix quick when mixing the colours so that the clay is very strong.



2. I have a photograph of an eye to use as reference, you don't have to stick exactly to your reference but it helps to have something to match the colours to.



3. After you've mixed the colours according to your reference, twist them together like this...



4. Once twisted, mould the shape into a log like this...



5. Add your surrounding colours for the outer part of the iris, attach them around the central 'log' . Make sure that you do this evenly all around or your iris will not be round with the pupil in the centre at the end.



6. Take the second to darkest colour according to your photo reference and roll it thinly, if you have a pasta machine use the setting 6 or 7.



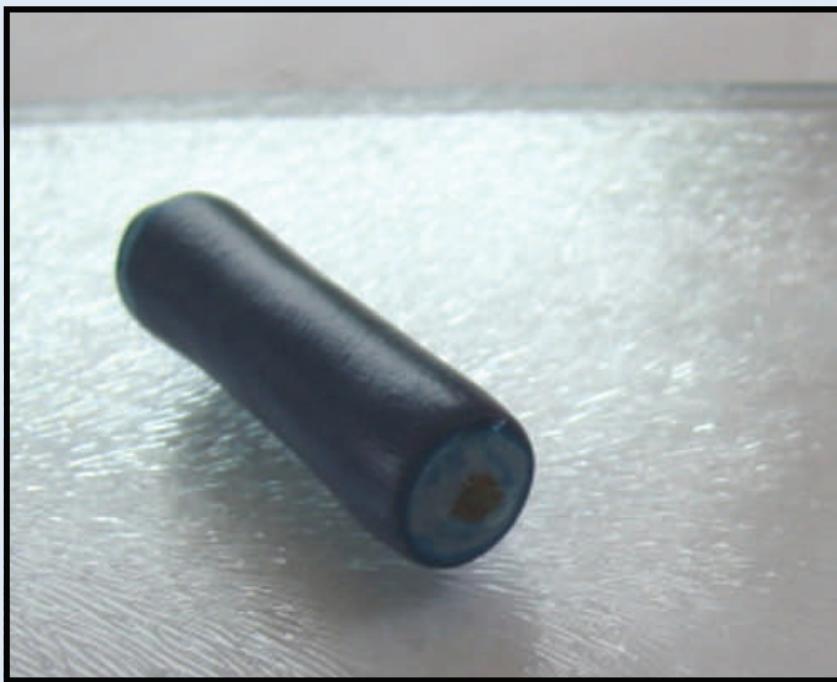
7. Attach this around the eye-log you are making, don't overlap it at any point or it will not be even at the end.



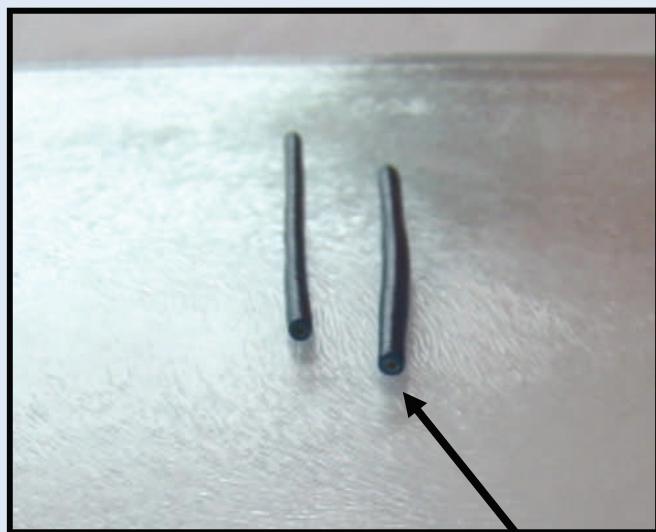
8. Now do the same with the darkest colour, you may not need to do the outer darkest colour if the eye reference you are using doesn't have it, its up to you.



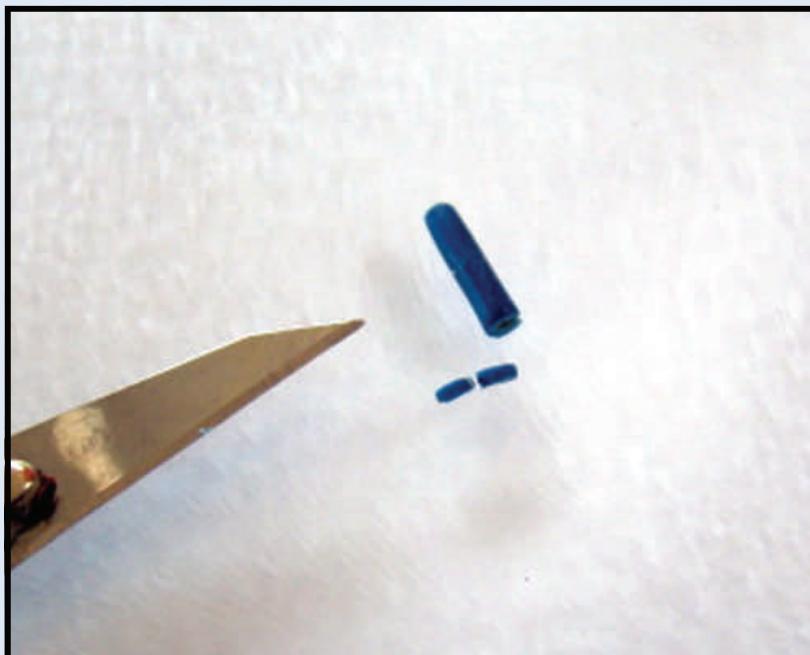
9. Start to roll out your cane, you need to start from the middle and move outwards, you will also need to cut it smaller as you go or you will end up with such a long piece that it will be hard to control.



10. Don't roll the log to the thinnest point in the centre from the beginning, use your thumb and first finger to roll from the middle outwards and once you have an even log like above, cut it into two pieces. I store the extra piece as a fat log for the future.



11. This would be around the right size I need, you will know what size you need according to the size figure you are making. These are around 3mm.

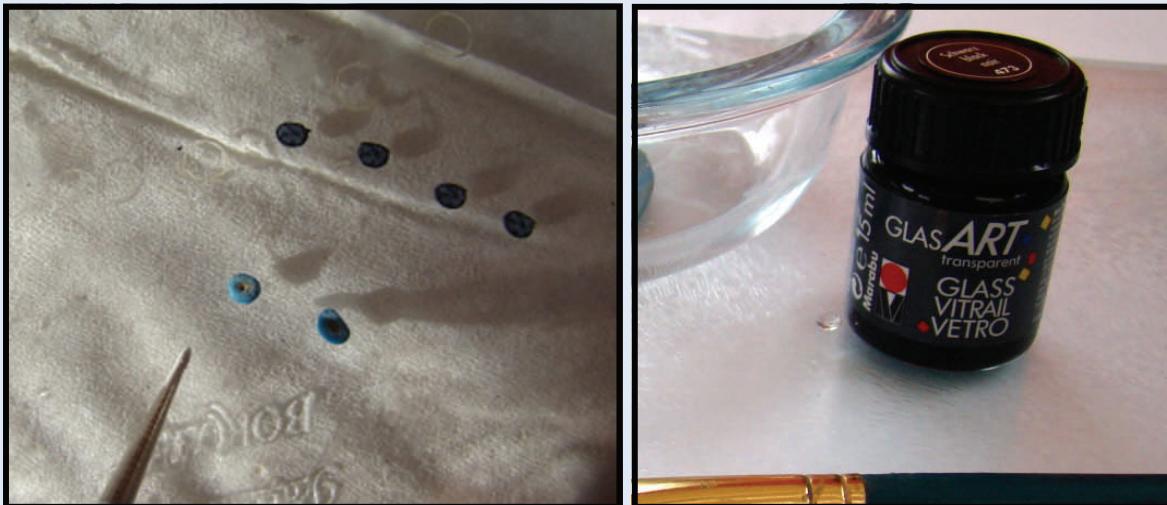


12. Put the roll in the fridge for about half an hour to stiffen it up and then cut little slices off the roll. Place these on a glass baking dish.



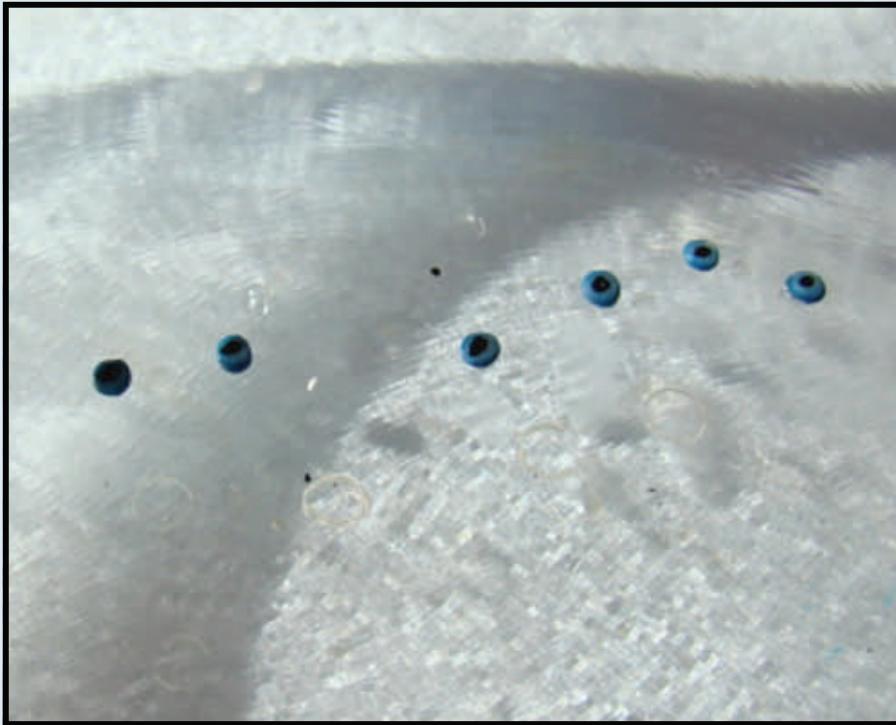
13. Use a sculpting tool to pat the disk you have cut back into a circle if it has lost its shape a little for slicing it.

14. Find something that will make a tiny indentation, I use a tool designed for nail art, it should be smaller than you think it needs to be because the globe you apply at the end will magnify everything.



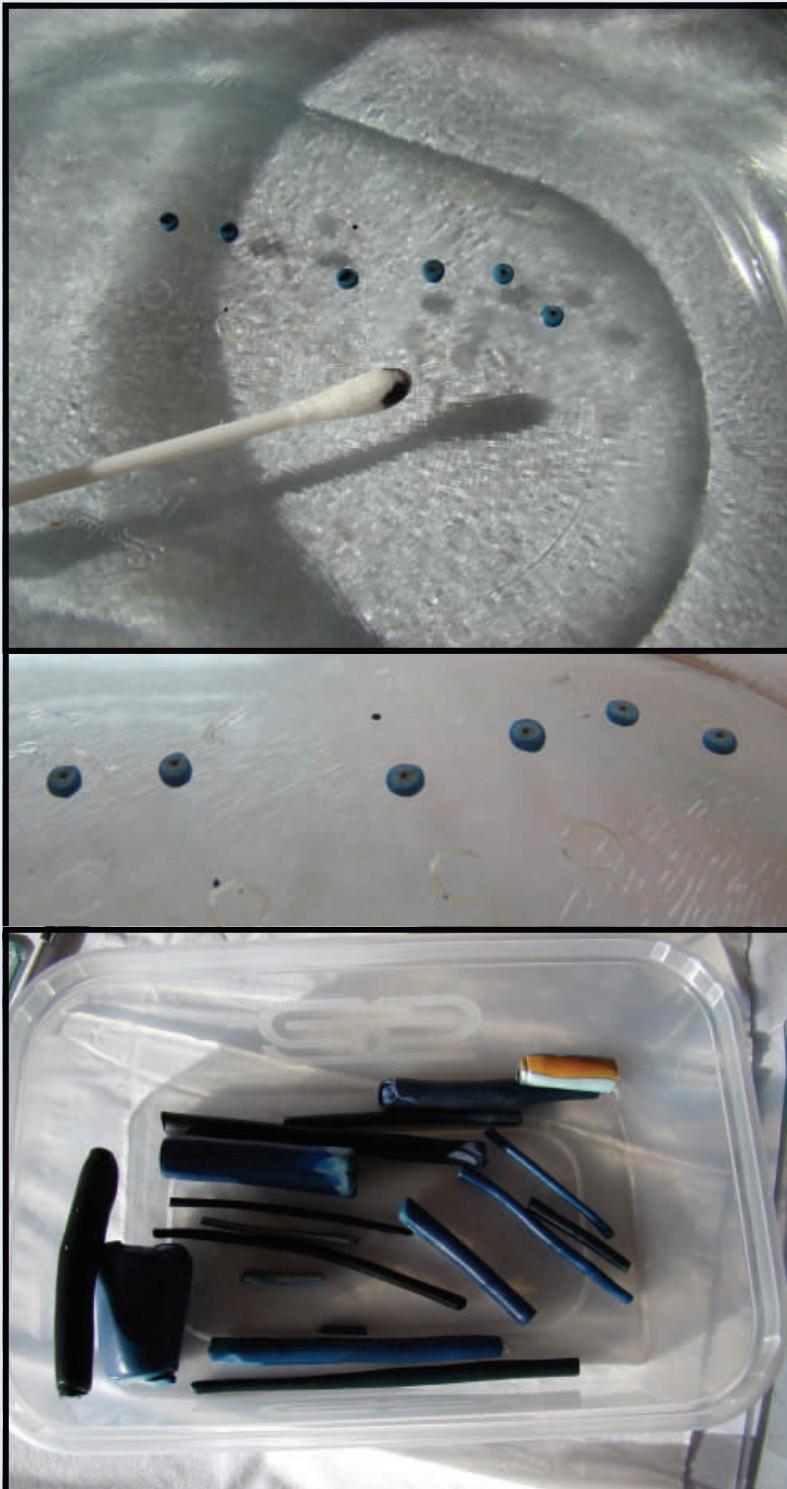
15. Make an indentation in the MIDDLE of the first colour log you mixed, in this case it would be the green and ochre colour, and make sure it's not too deep, just deep enough to hold a tiny bit of paint. Put your dish of irises in the oven and cure for about 15 minutes until they are strong.

16. You will need some GLOSSY black paint that is heat resistant, this is glass paint.



17. Paint each indentation with a liberal amount of the black paint and allow to dry, it doesn't matter if it forms a drop of paint, that's good it will make sure it fills the hole you made.
18. Once the paint is dry take some acetone on a cotton bud and rub the paint away lightly.



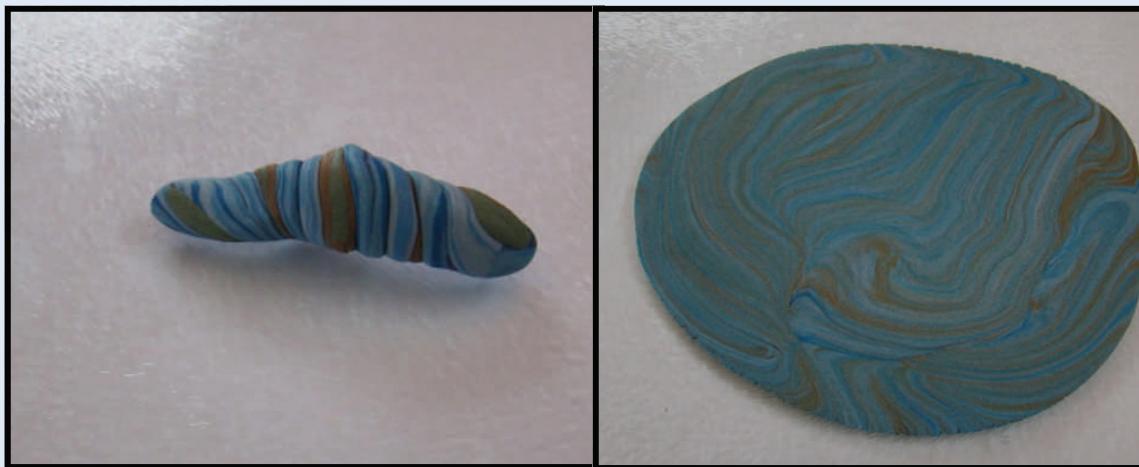


19. Rubbing lightly will ensure that just enough is left for the black 'pupil' were the paint is left in the indentation you made earlier.
20. You are now ready to attach a lens!
21. I store my extra canes for eyes in tubs according to colour like this..

Marble Method



1. Choose your colours according to your eye reference or any colours you desire.
2. Roll balls of various sizes according to how predominant you want that colour to be in the final marble effect.



3. Make small sausages with each colour and then twist them together like this...
4. Once they are twisted enough so that the colour striations are small and fine but the colours have not all mixed into one colour, flatten the clay slightly and roll it through a pasta machine if you have one, start on a wide setting and keep rolling it through until you get to about setting 6 or 7. If you don't have a pasta machine just roll it manually until about 1mm thick.



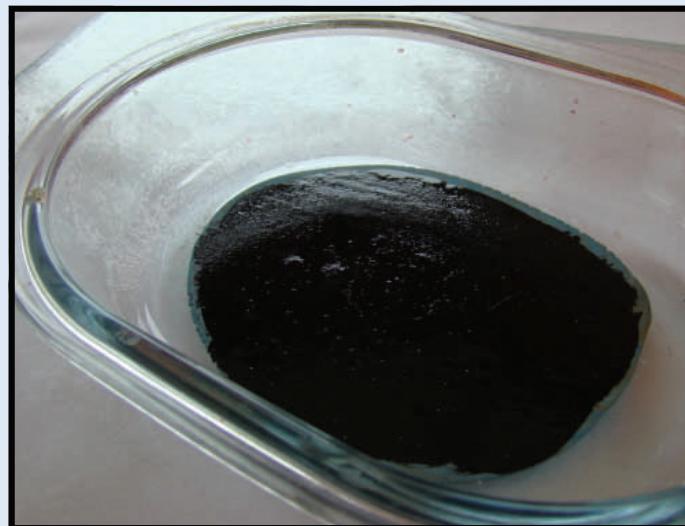
5. You will now need something with a small point, your clay marble sheet and some baby powder.



6. Dip the needle in the powder so that it wont stick to the clay and make tiny holes all over the clay sheet, keep dipping the needle in powder from time to time to stop it sticking. Make the holes wide enough apart so that you can glue the lens over the "pupil" and also keep in mind that you want to have two of very similar colours. Make the holes in places that have the most variation in colours to make the iris interesting. Cure this in the oven for about 15-20 minutes so that it is very strong.



7. You will now need some GLOSSY black paint; I use glass paint that is heat resistant. Keep the marbled clay in the dish and once it is cool paint the whole surface with the black paint, allow to dry.

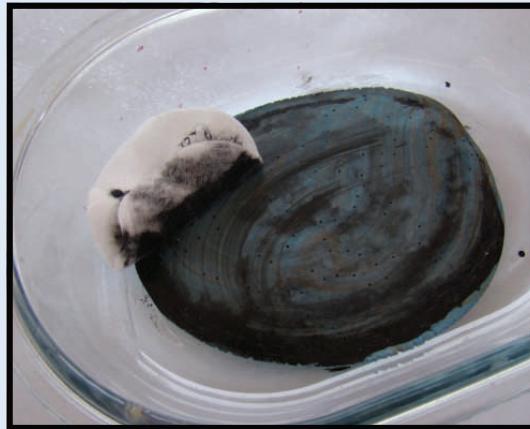


8. Paint three layers, allowing each to dry thoroughly before painting the next.



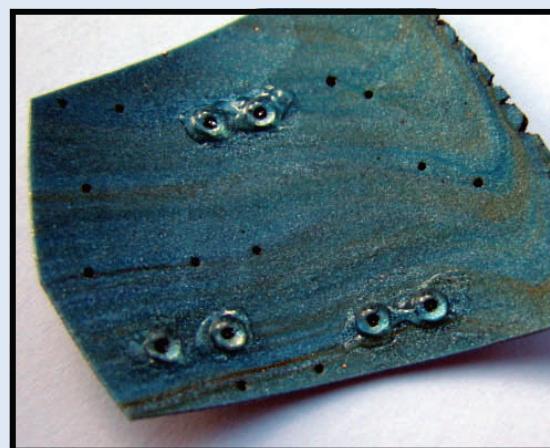
9. You will now need some acetone and some cotton wool pads.

10. Gently rub the excess paint off the clay.



11. Only the tiny round 'pupils' where the paint has stayed in the indentations you made earlier will be left.

12. This is what they will look like once the crystal has been attached. You can also make a resin globe if you choose, (see pg. 18 for details). Always take a photograph once the lens is attached to check that there are no air bubbles, as you can see there are some in the pair of eyes at the back of the sheet. You don't need to throw your crystals away, just pry them off the clay, this should be hard to do if you have good glue. Once off just clean them in acetone and they will be ready to be used again. Now you are ready to embed the eyes!



Crystal Dome Lens

These eyes are totally resistant to acetone as they are crystal! They are beautifully clear even without a layer of varnish but the varnish does make the eye more realistic as it leaves it slightly shiny like a real eye.



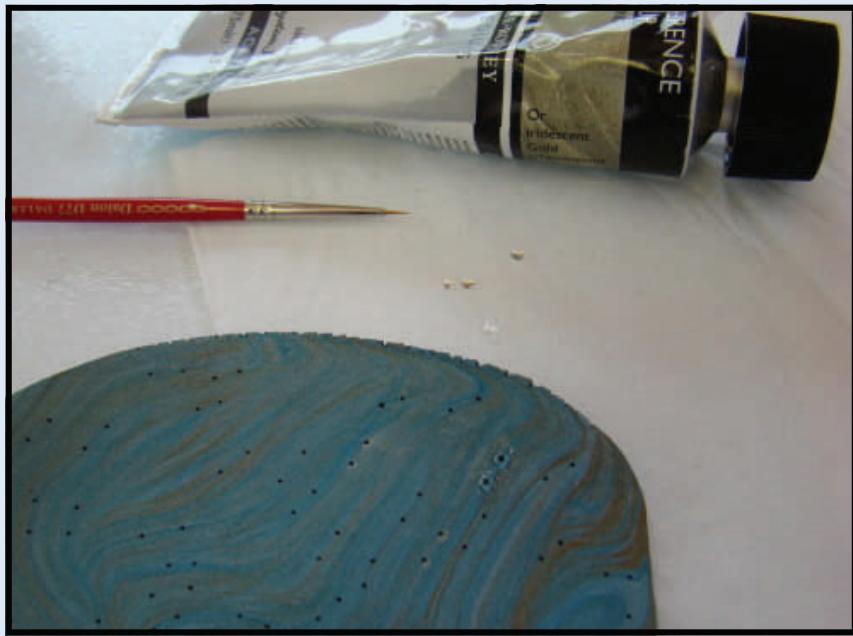
1. You will need the eyes you made earlier, a glue that is HEAT RESISTANT or the eyes will have a yellowish tint. It should be a glue that is made to be used on glass and plastic, and some Swarovski crystal cabochons in an appropriate size, mine are 2.4mm.



2. When I buy my cabochons they have a foil backing, ideally it would be good to buy clear ones with no backing at all but these are hard to come by unless you can afford to buy them in huge quantities. It is easy to remove the backing though as long as you make sure you don't buy crystal AB cabs. Plain silver foil ones are best.
3. If you need to remove the backing, just soak the crystals in a mixture of apple cider vinegar and salt for a few (minimum of 2) weeks. The backing comes off or gets loose during that time and you can just wipe it off when you take the crystals out of the mixture. The solution also cleans the crystals so that they sparkle!

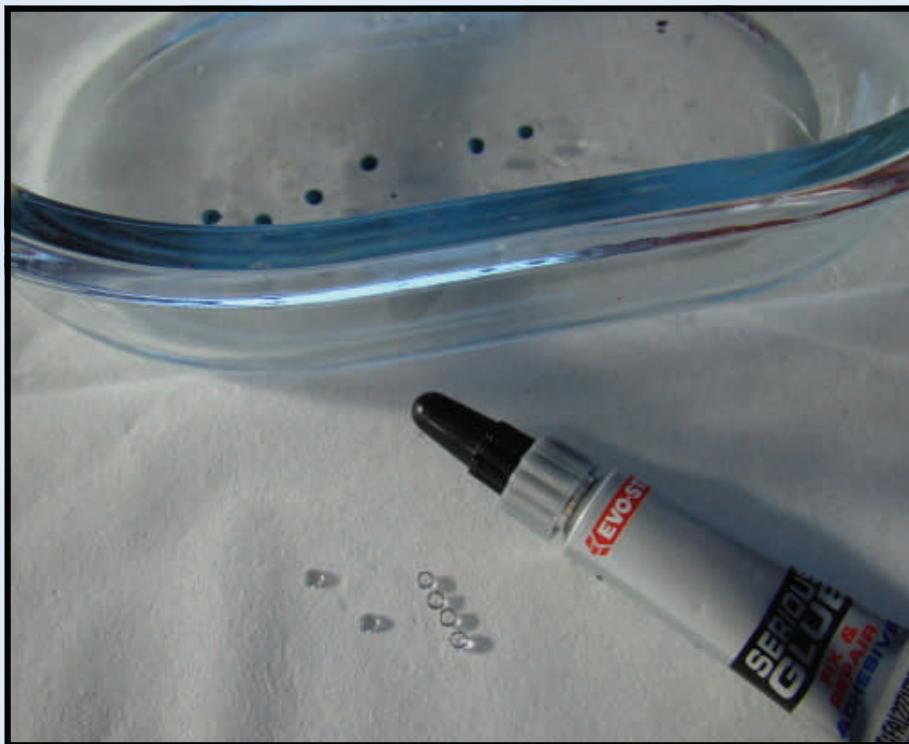


4. This is what they will look like...

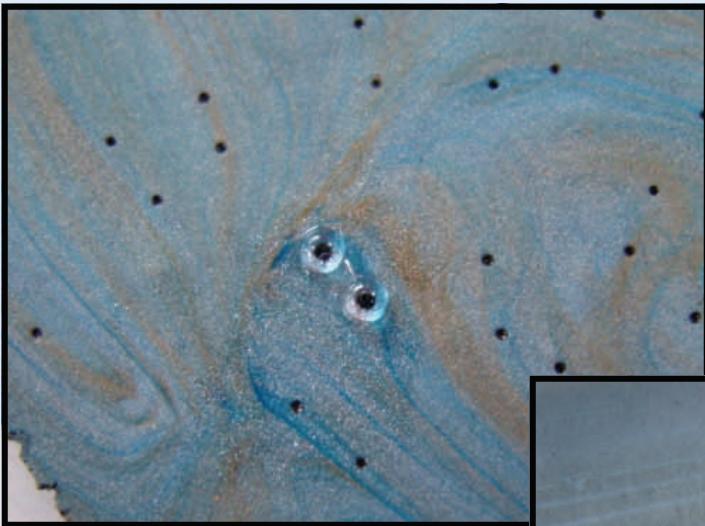


5. If you feel it necessary you could paint your tiny eyes with a little highlight to add some extra dimension but they should have good variation in colour already. If you do, use a very tiny brush, remember that everything is magnified under the lens.

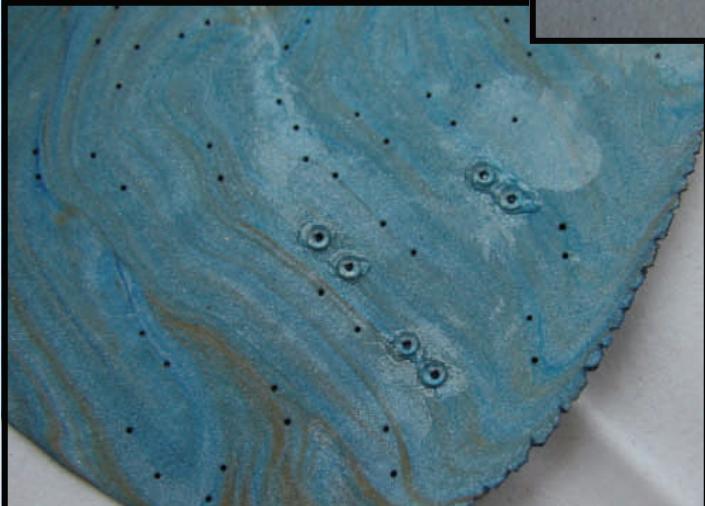
6. If you are using the cane method then leave them attached to the baking dish so that they are easy to work with.



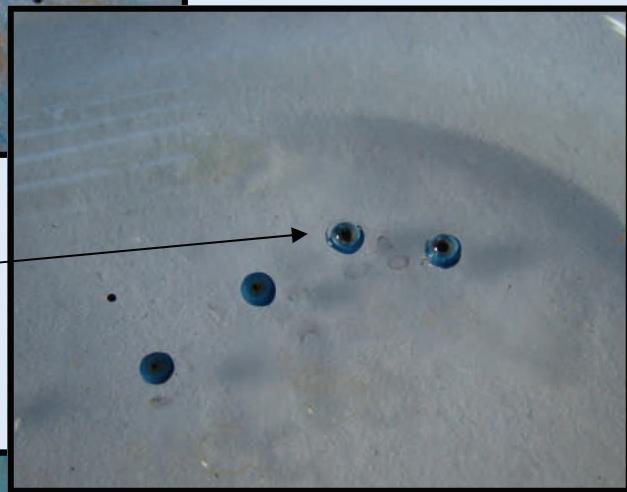
7. Apply a bit of glue to the top of your eye, not too much but not too little either so that the crystal will stick well.



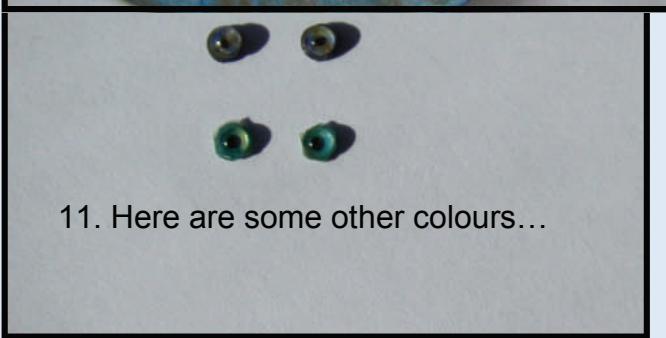
8. Apply the crystal and press it a little to ensure it is well attached and that there are no air bubbles. Make sure the pupil is in the centre of the dome.



9. Here are some cane eyes with the crystal attached.



10. Sometimes even when you have been careful you might still get bubbles and they will only show up on camera so take a photograph to make sure that your eyes are clean. You can always reuse your crystals if you don't like the eyes you have made, they are glued quite tightly if you use a good glue, but with a little prying they will come off and will just need a clean in some acetone before they can be used again.



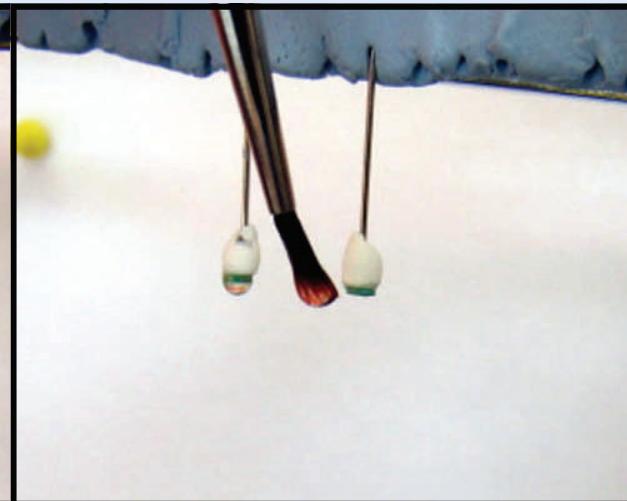
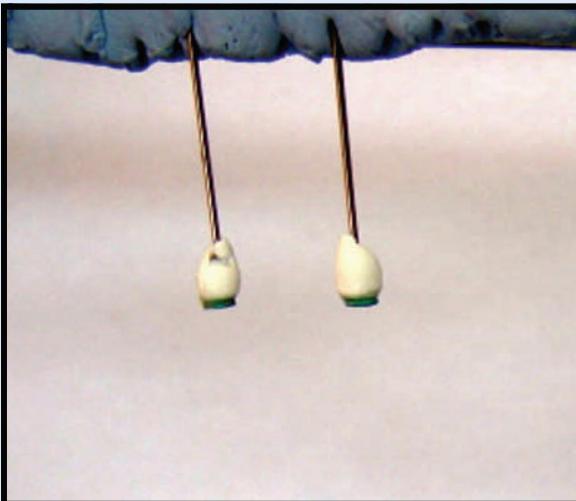
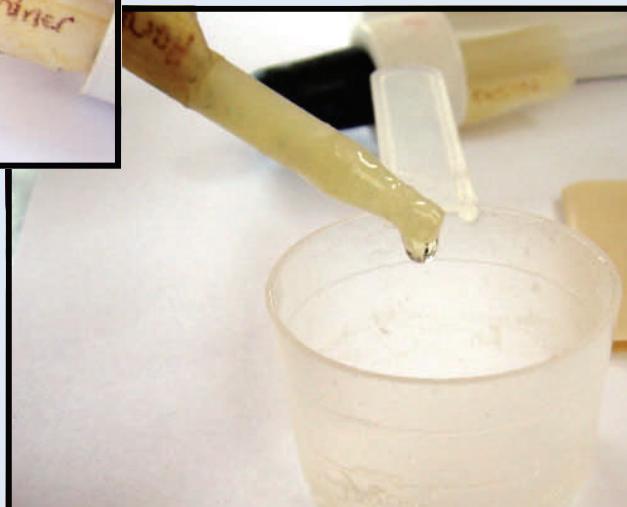
11. Here are some other colours...

Resin Lens



1. You will need some resin, I use Gedeo Crystal Resin, it is crystal clear and doesn't change colour in the oven. It takes 24 hours to dry properly.

2. I use droppers to measure the quantities of resin and hardener, this way you don't have to waste a lot of product just make sure you clean them thoroughly after use. My resin requires 1 part hardener to 2 parts resin so I usually use 4 drops hardener to 8 drops resin and that gives me a lot to work with.

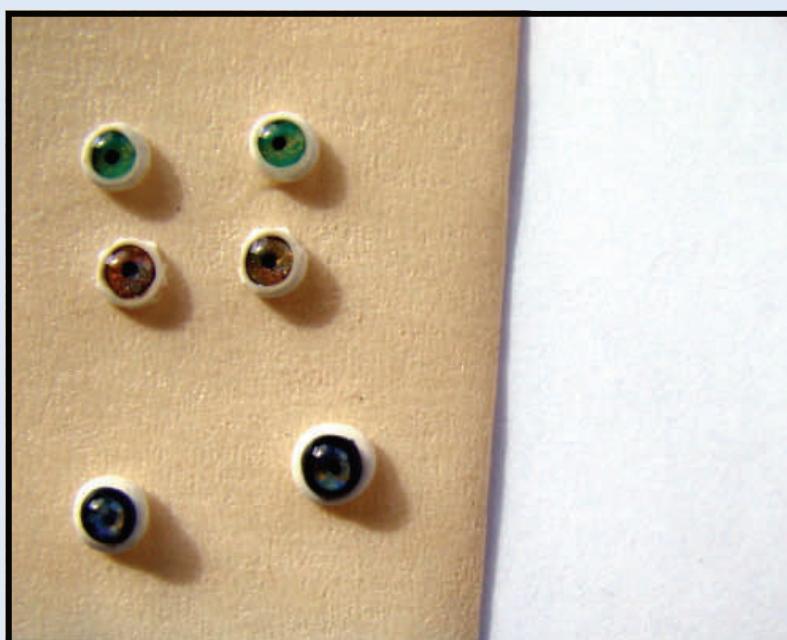


3. Hang your pin heads with the iris glued onto them upside down, I use blue tack to secure them to the arm of my desk lamp. Anything that will hang them upside down perfectly straight is good!

4. Apply your mixed resin using an old brush, just enough to make a globe at the end of the pin head. You don't want too much of a globe or it will magnify the iris too much and distort it.

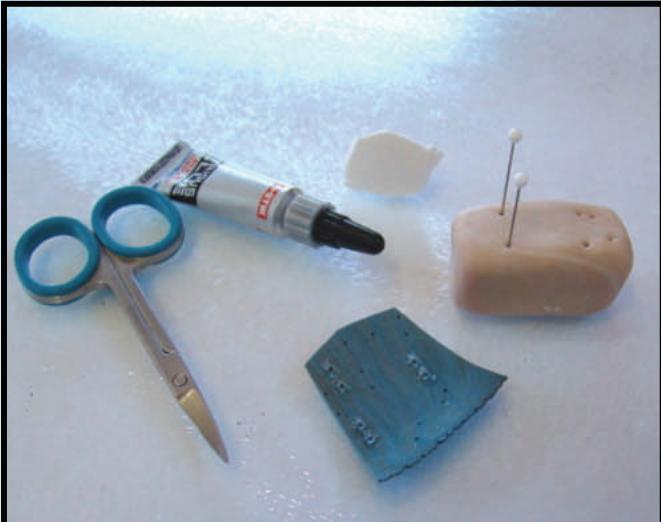


5. This is what they look like, if you have too much resin on the pin head just take it off again using the brush. Allow them to dry like this for at least 24 hours, preferably longer to make sure they are hard and smooth so its best to make a bunch of them a while before you will need to use them.
6. You can also make resin globes without a pin head by embedding the cured iris into a small white ball of clay, then curing it again and then adding the resin to this. It will automatically form the convex shape for a lens.

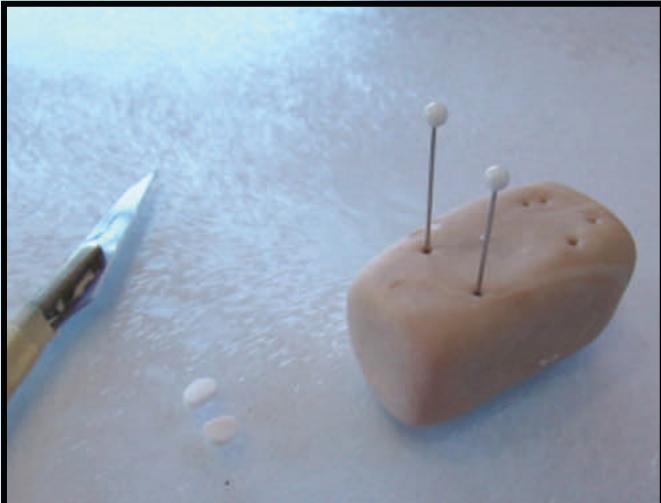


These eyes are now ready to embed.

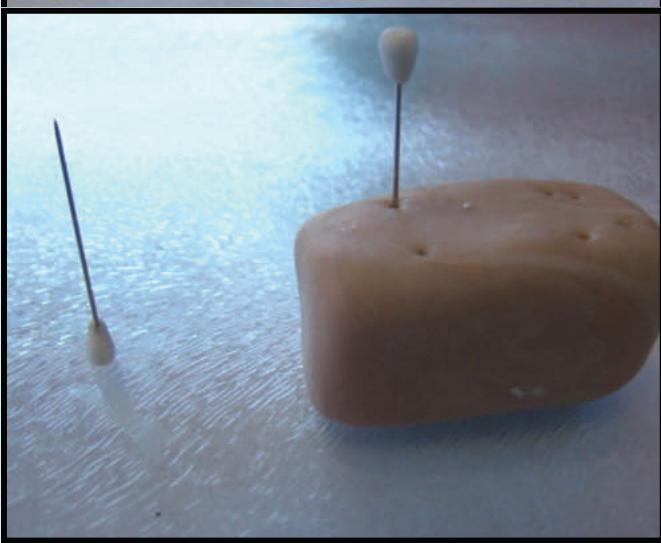
Embedding the Eyes



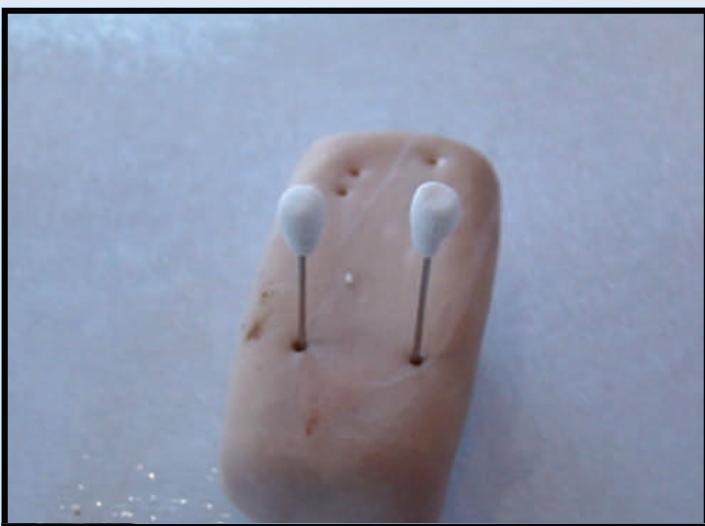
1. Once you have made your iris it can be embedded into the white of the eye. This is what you will need...



2. Take some white clay, preferably mixed with a little mix quick to make it softer, stickier and stronger. Make a small ball and cut it in half so that you have two equal slices big enough to cover the iris.



3. I use glass pin heads for this as they are heat resistant, cover them with a THIN layer of clay, a thick layer will make your eye too big at the end. Flatten the top by turning it upside down and pressing slightly on a flat, clean surface.



4. Cure them for about 15 minutes.



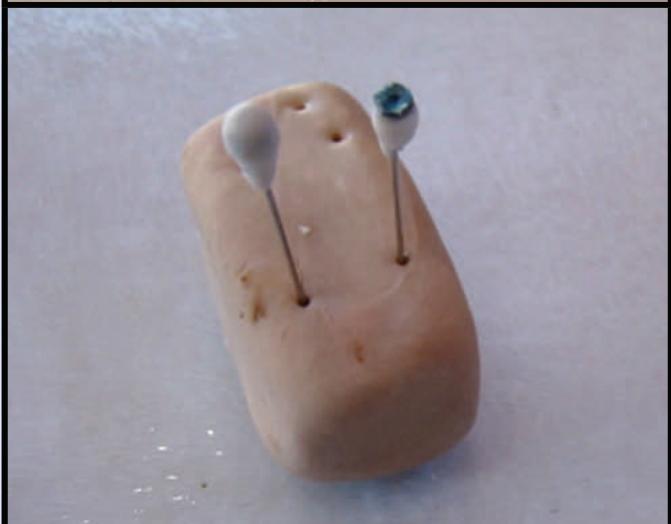
5. Apply glue to the tops of the pin heads once cured.



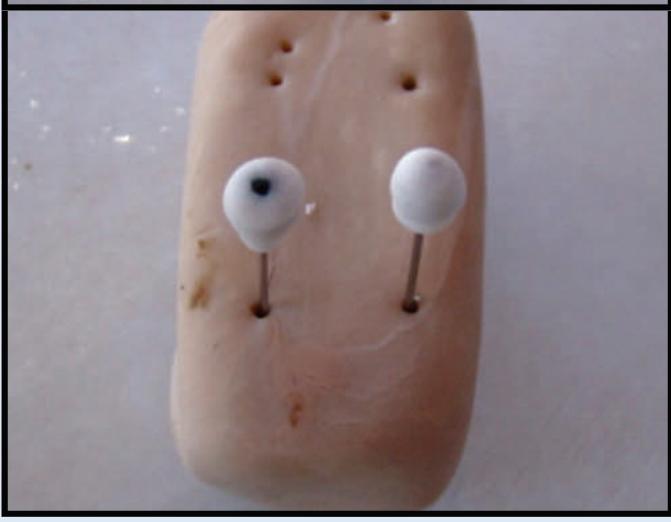
6. Attach your iris and lens to the pin head and allow to dry.



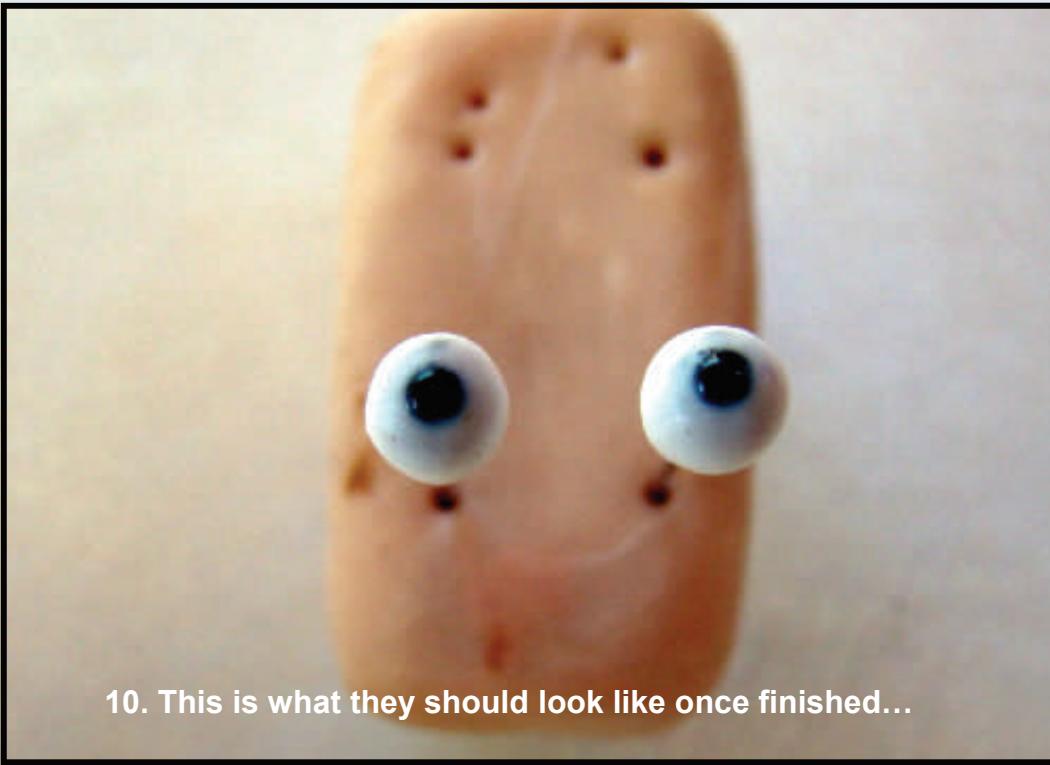
7. Cover the irises with a little liquid Sculpey, just a tiny bit, hardly anything. You should not be able to see any liquid.



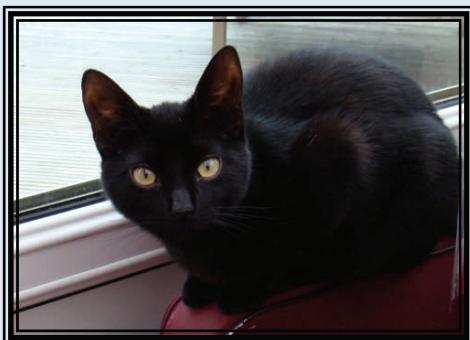
8. Once they are dry take another small ball of the white clay and cut it into two equal pieces just big enough to cover the whole iris in a thin layer of clay. Press one half flat and lay it over the whole iris and blend it in like this...



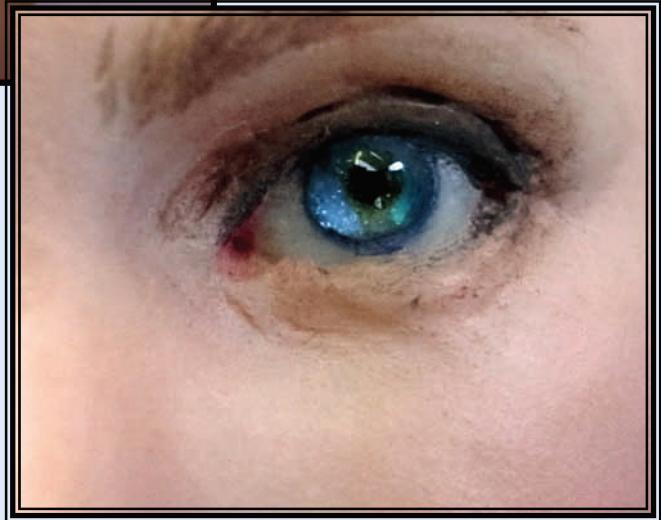
9. Once you have made a round white ball with the clay you covered your iris with start to gently rub it away with your thumb where the iris is until you have a small round opening, keep shaping it until it is a round iris...



11. From the side...

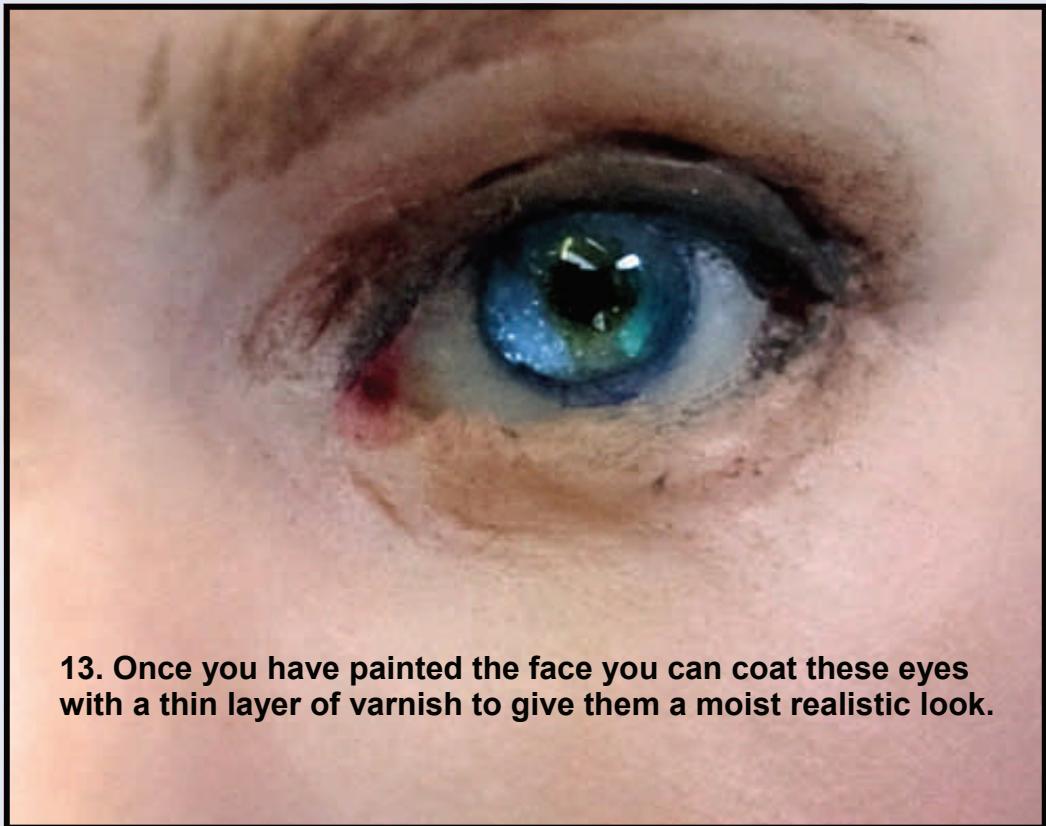


Sephi





12. Once sculpted into the face, you can use acetone on the face when smoothing with no worry of your eyes misting over...



13. Once you have painted the face you can coat these eyes with a thin layer of varnish to give them a moist realistic look.