

Cross Word Millefiori Cane

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Photos – Iris Mishly



Play with Skinner blends, stripes and make your own designs of geometric millefiori canes! This cane was developed by me and was inspired by the [Basket Weave Cane](#) by **Jana Roberts Benzon**

Materials:

Working space, clean and smooth (ceramic/glass tile is great)
6 different colored clays (3 for skinner blend and 3 more for striped cane)
Cutting blade
Brayer
Ruler
Pasta machine – recommended

Pasta Machine

There are few brands of pasta machines; some are different in setting then others. When I say thickest setting choose yours accordingly whether it's 1 or 9.



Step 1: The first step is to make a 3 color Skinner Blend.
(See [Leigh's Skinner Blend Lesson](#))



Step 2: This is what we get after rolling the clay in the Pasta Machine for 15-20 times.



Step 3: Now that you have a blended sheet of clay, fold the sheet into thirds (like folding a letter), matching color to color just as you would if making a Skinner Blend Log.



Step 4: After it's folded, run it through the pasta machine beginning with the thickest setting, then on thinner settings until you have a long, narrow sheet going from dark to light. You will now fold this sheet into a loaf using the "accordian fold" method.

Accordian Fold - To do this fold, begin at either end of your long narrow blend, the light or the dark, and while holding the length of the sheet in one hand,

with your other hand, lay approximately 1 1/2 inches of the loose end on your work surface. Now fold the sheet over the top of the 1 1/2 inch section, making sure that you smooth out any air bubbles. Continue taking the sheet back and forth (accordian style) until you've formed a loaf. After you have completed the loaf, square up the edges by slicing off the ragged edges on all four sides.



Step 5: After finishing the Accordion Fold, you should now have a rectangular loaf shading from dark to light.



Step 6: Lay the loaf on your work surface with the light color on the bottom, dark on top. Next, slice the loaf in half lengthwise, so that you now have two long, thin rectangles. Place these two pieces together, matching up the light sides.



Step 7: This is a view of how your loaf should look from the side with the two pieces you cut placed together. You now have a rectangular loaf that is dark on both long, narrow ends and light in the center.



Step 8: The next step is to reduce your loaf to a length of about 9 inches (reduce so that when you cut off the ends, you have 8 usable inches to cut into 8 sections). Make sure that you work hard at keeping the edges crisp throughout the reduction process. Make sure that your 9 inch length is uniform in size throughout the full length of the cane.



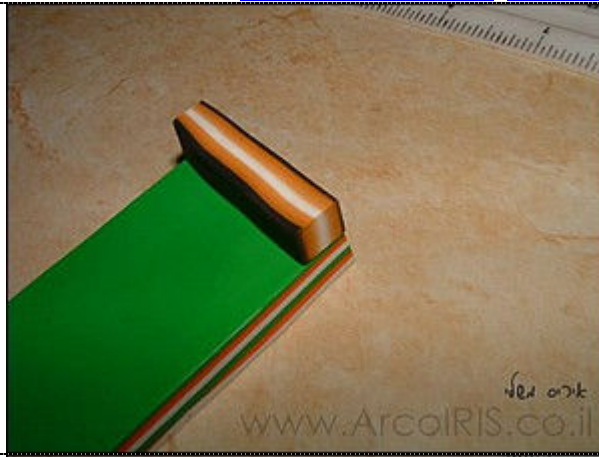
Step 9: Here is the reduced cane cut into 8 one inch sections.



Step 10: Now we should make the other 8 one inch sections in order to finish our square cane. We need to prepare a striped cane. I chose green, orange and white.
([Mia Rox's lesson](#) in the PCCyclopedia)



Step 11: This is the result of the 3 color striped cane. Notice you need to duplicate the cane so it will fit the width and length of the sections from Step 9.



Step 12: Measure the size of the 1 inch sections we did in Step 9 and cut 8 more sections of the same size from the striped cane.



Step 13: Here's the eight sections!



Step 14: To assemble the cane, take each of your pieces and place them in a Crossword puzzle pattern with 4 pieces on each row.



Step 15: Start reducing the block we just assembled...



Step 16: ...more reducing!



Step 17: And here's the final look at our reduced cane!



Now let's make some beads!

Good luck! 😊

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