

# The CaBezel Jewelry Molds-Cuff Bracelets \*

*Tools for Creating Perfect Cabochons and Bezels Every Time!*



***Thank-you for your interest in the CaBezel Jewelry Molds***

**CaBezels are awesome tools, especially if you sell your jewelry at shows or on-line.  
Achieve Consistent Results, Effortlessly!**

As you may have already guessed, the CaBezels were named this because one part of the mold creates a **Cabochon** and the other creates the matching **Bezel**. **CaBezel!**

The CaBezel Cuff Bracelet molds are a bit different from the other CaBezel molds because you will only be using them to make the Bezel from polymer clay. The Cabochons in this case will be made flat (either from clay or paper) and are meant to nestle inside the bezel below the surface not raised above the bezel like a typical cabochon would. We provide you with the template for the cabochon to ensure the perfect fit.

**Everyone loves bracelets and cuff bracelets are all the rage right now.**

The Cabezel Cuff molds were designed so that you wouldn't have to purchase pre-made foundations. The pre-made forms are great but only until you run out....and what if your muse has you working after midnight?

With the CaBezel Cuff Bracelet molds you have everything you need to get started no matter what time of the day or

night it may be.

Whether you sell your jewelry at craft fairs, on-line, like to make them as gifts or just like to wear several all at once like I do, as long as you have clay, and your CaBezel mold, you'll always be prepared to make more!

**The CaBezels are tools that give you the foundation, the creative part of embellishing is up to you!**

**There are two different Cuff Bracelet molds available.**

**Single Thick**.

**It is exactly how it sounds, you can make one really thick bracelet.**



and **Triple Thin**.

**This mold allows you to make three thin bracelets at a time or one really thick bracelet.**  
(You decide whether you'll make 3 singles, 1 double and 1 single or a triple).  
All this, with just one mold.

**Both the Single Thick and the Triple Thin create a band length of 7.7/8" (20 mm long)**  
**The width of the Single Thick mold is 1.7/8" X 7.7/8" ( 47mm X 20mm)**

**Triple Thin mold creates 2 different thin widths 5/8" and 6/8" with a combined width of 2.3/8"**  
**(18 or 22 mm with a combined width of 62 mm).**

Imagine having three channels in one bracelet to tell your story.

Fill them with memories from a trip by adding photos, stamps, or other ephemera from a particular region.

Or, how about using the channels to record techniques you learned at the last polymer clay workshop you attended. You could even swap cane slices (or whatever the technique was) with other attendees, what a lovely memory from the class.

---

### **Let's Get Started!**

(We will assume that you have some experience with polymer clay already).

#### **You will need:**

Polymer clay of your choice (conditioned and sheeted using a [pasta machine](#)), [acrylic rod](#), [scalpel](#), [tissue blade](#), [paper](#) to work on, spray bottle with water to be used as a release. (If using Fimo brand clay, use a suitable, recommended release like cornstarch.)

#### **Creating the Bezel:**

Sheet a long piece of clay on the thickest setting of your pasta machine. (Make it larger than the mold you are using).

Place it on top of a ceramic tile.

NOTE: I almost always suggest that you work on paper but because the cuff bracelets are so long they may curve

upwards as they cool.

**To prevent this, you can either:**

Place something on top of it when it comes out of the oven OR, you can work on a ceramic tile instead. The clay tends to stick to the tile and not curve up when curing or cooling. Before baking, be sure to poke a few holes in it with a pin to let out any air that may be trapped between the clay and the tile.(The only downside is that the backside (inside) of the cuff will likely be shiny once removed from the tile. A light sanding would remedy this).

**TIP:** You may want to sheet 2 pieces of clay on a medium setting and stack them to create a piece that is thicker than using 1 layer on the thickest setting as it will be easier to get the clay up into the ends of the mold.

*Don't worry, it isn't at all as complicated as it seems right now.*

**Here we go:**

Lightly spritz the mold with water and then place it down on the clay.

Take your acrylic roller in your fist and firmly rub the flat end over the entire bezel mold. (The acrylic roller is not used in it's typical rolling fashion). Rotate the mold clockwise and continue rubbing.

If using firmer clay like Kato, it may require more passes.

You can tell if the clay is up in the mold when the mold takes on the colour of the clay.

Once you are sure that the clay is well up into the mold, lift it off. Voila!

Oh noooo. Have you pressed harder in one spot, or not enough in another? That's OK, the translucency of the mold allows you to lower it back down in the correct place and try again.

Note:I tend to lean harder on the right side when rubbing the roller over the surface so that is why I suggest rotating the paper a few times to get a consistent result).

*Don't worry, this process becomes very easy with a little practice.*

**Cutting out the Bezel:**

If there is water on the clay, lightly dab it off with a tissue. (It's easier to see where you are cutting).

Mark your starting point with a little tick so that you will know when you have gone around the shape completely.

I prefer to start cutting somewhere in the center not on a corner.

Use a sharp scalpel and hold it parallel to the edge of the bezel. A dull blade will cause drag and you won't get a clean result.

When cutting with a scalpel, it is easier to move the paper *not* your blade.

Once you have gone around the shape, leave the bezel stuck to the tile and peel away the excess clay from *around* the bezel.

The bezel cuff will be baked flat.

**Tip:** If the outer edge has a rough spot you can smooth it lightly now with your finger or a smoothing tool *or*, wait until after it has been baked and give the edge a light sanding once cooled).

*You now have a nice smooth bezel. Wasn't that easy?*

Leave it on the tile and bake according to the clay manufacturer's instructions. Even though the clay isn't thick, I would suggest a minimum 30 minutes, even 60. Remember, under baking your clay will cause it to be brittle.

Because I like the metallic look for my bezels I will often use scrap clay for the bezel and then use some type of gilding paste or powder on them.

**Tip:** Before baking is the best time to add powders such [PearlEx](#), and [PanPastels](#) (or similar) as they will bond better with unbaked clay.

[Artc Wax](#) and [Cosmic Shimmer](#) , [Creative Expressions Gilding Wax](#) or [Viva Decor Inka Gold](#) can always be added after the piece has baked.

Keep in mind, you may bake your piece more than once depending on how you choose to embellish it.

Not a fan of metallic? Use your favourite colour of clay instead.

**Note:** The thickness of the clay used for the bezel is a personal choice. The inside depth of the bezel will *not* change, only the outside edge thickness will.

All makes of pasta machines produce different thicknesses so play around a bit to determine what you like. Keep the weight of the piece in mind.

Don't expect to create your masterpiece the first time! Maybe the third :)

Depending on how you will be filling the the channels (if at all) you may be *curving* the clay into a bracelet shape as soon as it comes out of the oven *or* you may be letting it cool flat.

The deciding factor is this, if you will be adding clay to the channel and re-baking it later than leave it flat.

If you are using paper or other un-bake-able items in the channel then you will want to curve it now while still quite warm.

**How to Curve your Cuff Bracelet:**

The average size of a woman's wrist is 7.5" - 8" in length.

You will need to find a form that is the size you require.

I have found that the empty cardboard cylinder from packing tape is the perfect size (for me). I use the *inside* the cardboard cylinder . This method cools the bracelet with the edges close to touching. Perhaps the outside of the cardboard tube will be a more suitable size for your needs. If you need or prefer it to cool as a larger size (the ends of the cuff bracelet will be farther apart) then look around for something of a more suitable size. Maybe use the tin from chickpeas?

TIP: When cooling on the *outside* of a form, have a strip of paper or cardstock handy (wider and longer than the cuff bracelet) so that you can wrap it around the warm clay to keep it in place. Hold it with tape (not an elastic as that may mark the clay while cooling).

---

### Embellishing the Cuff

These cuffs even look great empty but the channels present a great opportunity for you to showcase some of your other works.

There are several ways to embellish and fill these cuffs.

Not in the mood to fill the channel? Then leave it empty and concentrate your super powers on embellishing it just the way it is using your favourite medium.

Foils, Swellegant, Iced Enamels gilding pastes, paint it, carve it, stamp it. The list is endless.

Protect with your favourite sealant like [Final Coat](#), [Triple Thick](#), [PYMII](#) etc.

### Filling the channels:

One way to fill them is to use a polymer clay veneer.

I am referring to using pieces of clay sheeted on a thin enough setting to sit even with, or below the edges of the bezel.

The polymer clay veneers can be your favourite complex canes, mokume gane, silk screened clay, textured clay, crackled clay even transfers. Anything goes! Find some silk screens and textures [here](#).

You will then rebake flat, (add a thin layer of liquid clay for added protection if desired) and curve as described above before it cools.

### Paper inserts

Use the exact same concept as above but use paper instead.

There are so many beautiful types of paper all around. Think magazines for colour but also black and white designs from your printer. Add color to them yourself with coloured pencils or anything else.

I have enjoyed myself immensely making my own decorative paper using the [Gelli Plate](#).

No Picasso skills necessary. You are just playing with textures and colours. I work in an old 12 X 16" black Ardco sketchbook. Admittedly there aren't any results that I could turn into cards but I can certainly find lots of areas to isolate to create some gorgeous pieces of jewelry.. and also adding coloured pencils to black and white photo copies. There are endless sources of paper or decals and [foils](#) available.

You will need to seal your paper first with a [paper sealer](#), or white glue ensure that your image won't be ruined by becoming translucent in the process. (there are lots of products out there for this step).

Once finished, use a product like [ICE Resin](#) to protect everything. (Since the bracelet is already curved, it will be necessary to paint on thin coats or else it will run).

### Cut the Patterned Insert for a Perfect Fit

A template is now available to download and print so it couldn't be easier.

Carefully cut out the dark section inside the bezel, leaving the outer area intact to use as a window later on.

When you are ready to choose the clay or paper pattern to fill your clay bezel move the window around on the surface until you find the prettiest part. Now take the dark inside piece you removed from template and place it back in the empty place it was removed from. Lift off the outer "window frame" while holding down the center and trace the shape left behind.

Use a sharp scalpel to cut around it.

If your pattern is made of paper, seal it and let dry before inserting and then use a slow epoxy or other preferred glue to attach it permanently. You can even use ICE resin to stick it down and also to seal it but I wouldn't suggest sealing it until it has cure in place as everything may slide around on you. (approx 12 hours)

If your patterned insert is polymer clay, I would suggest roughing up the baked bezel a bit to create some tooth. Add a thin coat of liquid clay before inserting your insert to make sure there is good adhesion.

Bake flat, then curve on your chosen form while still warm.

Seal with PYMII or your favourite sealer to protect your work.

### To Fasten the Cuff or Leave it Open?

Is it necessary to use a fastener? What type of clay was used? Premo? Fimo? Kato?

The stiffness of your finished cuff will vary. Certain clays (Kato) may have less of a chance of relaxing (or opening up due to body heat) while being worn. However, if you are selling these, I would suggest some type of closure or clasp.

The clay can be prepped for the closure either before or after baking. If you want larger holes I would suggest using small [plunger cutters](#) before baking. These larger holes can accommodate ribbon or cording or elastic for lacing as a closure.

If small holes are required (for jump rings or similar) then wait until after it's baked and use a small drill bit.

You can then use metal findings and several types of toggles, clasps or magnetic closures.

You can find some chunky findings that might suit your style here. [O-rings](#), [Clasps](#), [Over-sized C-clips](#), [Large Lobster Clips](#), [Toggles](#)

This [drill](#) comes with several different sizes of bits conveniently stored inside the handle.

You may also choose to create your own findings and even embed them before baking. Buttons and loops come to mind.

So many options!

I know that you'll enjoy using the CaBezel molds. They are wonderful tools to get you started creating your jewelry and we know that you will come up with even more ways to use them and add your unique, personal touch. Get creative!

The entire line up of CaBezels including [The Originals](#), [The A-I-O's](#) and the brand new [Holy CaBezels](#) can be found [here](#).

### Looking for some inspiration?

Try the [Galleries](#) at Shades of Clay. This [Gallery](#) is specific to the CaBezels

Look for my instructional videos [here](#).

**Warning:** Some of these are vintage videos. New, modern ones are in the works!

I'm sure that you will create beautiful things with your CaBezel molds.

Join the conversation on [FaceBook](#), share what you've created and "Like" us while you're there. :)

Show us what you've made by sending us images by email or if you're on Instagram, use the hashtag #cabezels.

**Questions?** I'm here to help [wendy@shadesofclay.com](mailto:wendy@shadesofclay.com)

### Cleaning instructions:

If your molds get dirty you can clean them up with mild soap and water.

NEVER use ammonia or any other harsh cleaners. It's never a good idea to leave polymer clay on any surface because a reaction may occur (this applies to the CaBezels as well).

For a long life, keep your molds out of direct sunlight. When not in use a dark drawer is their favourite spot.

I know you will enjoy creating beautiful keepsakes with your CaBezel molds.

*Thank you for letting me be a part of Your Creative Journey.*

*Wendy Orlowski*



2017

2017