

Jewelry Making Techniques

ITSY BITSY LEAVES: The itsy bitsy leaves are created by taking a piece of clay about one half the size of a pea and making a small leaf shape. The leaves do not have to be exact. Make an indentation on each of the itsy bitsy leaves.

JEWELRY BASES: Each of the jewelry pieces is created on a piece of 1/8 inch flat layer of flesh-toned or beige polymer clay. You will lay the upper layer mold pieces on top of the flat base layer and will cut around the shape with your craft knife when the piece is completed.

COILS: The edges of several of the jewelry pieces are made by rolling out a long coil of clay the diameter of a shoe lace tip. You will follow the shapes in the illustrations, fitting the coils to create the shape of the piece. Just cut a piece of coil the approximate length called for in the jewelry piece, smooth the edge and fit as needed. The coils do not have to be “perfect”.

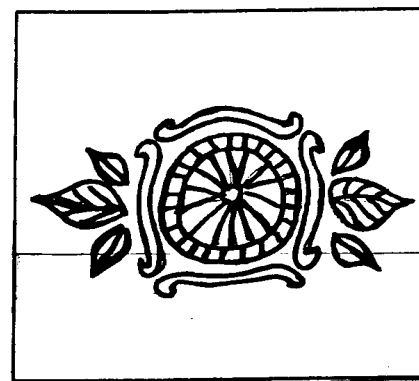
CUTTING OUT THE JEWELRY PIECES: After you complete the jewelry pieces by following the instructions on each piece, you will cut the base layer of the clay around the perimeter of the jewelry piece, slowly and carefully so the base is the exact shape as the jewelry design up on the top layer.

Instructions

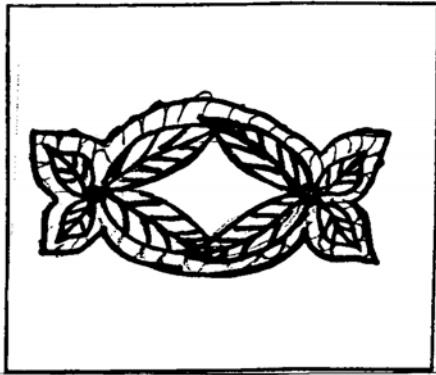
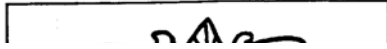
Make a 1/8 inch flat base layer of flesh-toned or beige clay as indicated above. Using the mold, make a pink fancy button for the center. Add a tiny maroon ball to the very center of the fancy button.

Using the green polymer clay, make a long coil of clay as indicated above. Following the drawing to the left, create and position four separate coils around the pink fancy button.

Using the mold, make two small leaves and place them on the sides as indicated. Make four Itsy Bitsy Leaves as indicated above and place as indicated on the illustration to the left.

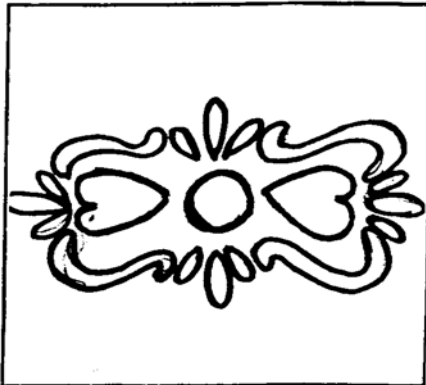


Following the cutting instructions above, cut out the jewelry piece and bake according to the manufacturers instructions.



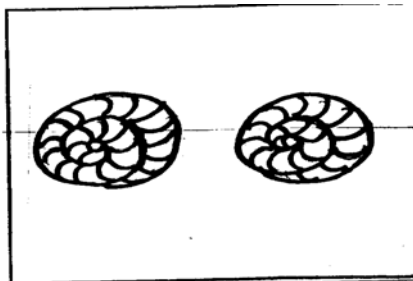
Mix green and white polymer clay until it marbleizes. Using the mold, make a cabochon and place on a 1/8 inch base of green clay. Using the mold, make four large leaves and place around the cabochon as indicated in the illustration. Make four itsy bitsy leaves also as indicated. Place two pearls at the base of the large leaves.

Roll out two long coils of light green clay. Lay the coils side by side and twist. Wrap the twisted coil all around the jewelry piece. Using the craft knife, cut out the base of the jewelry piece and bake according to manufacturers instructions.



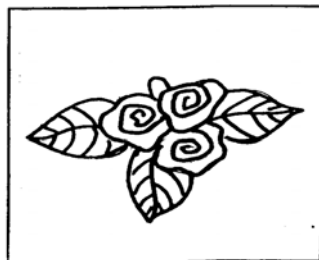
Roll out 1/8 inch flesh-toned clay as your base. Using the mold, make two pink hearts and a small berry. Roll out a long black coil. Following the illustration to the left, cut and lay the coil as indicated, creating the design.

When finished, cut around the design with your craft knife and bake according to the manufacturers instructions.



Roll out two long thin coils of green clay. Laying both side by side, twist to make a braided effect. Following the illustration to the left, wrap the braided coil around itself to the desired shape.

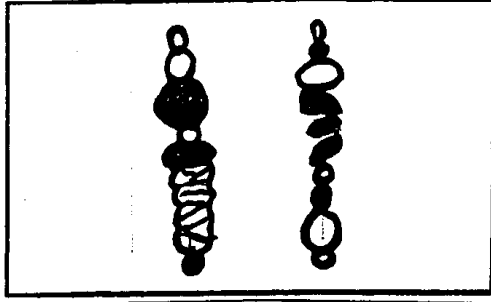
Sprinkle the tops with Gold Power and bake according to the manufacturers instructions. Glue the earrings posts to the backs.



Leaves and Roses charm. Using the mold, create three roses and three medium leaves.

Arrange as indicated to the left.

Make a small loop out of the thin wire and insert in the top of the charm. Make the loop large enough to fit onto a chain or your choice



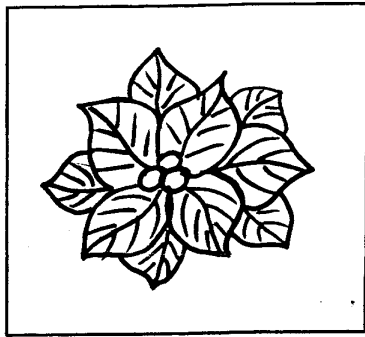
or a ribbon, etc. Bake as directed.

Roll out a 1/8 inch flesh-toned clay base. Using the mold, make four diamond shapes, three roses and five or six itsy bitsy leaves.

Roll out a thin coil of green clay. Following the diagram to the left, place all of the items as indicated.

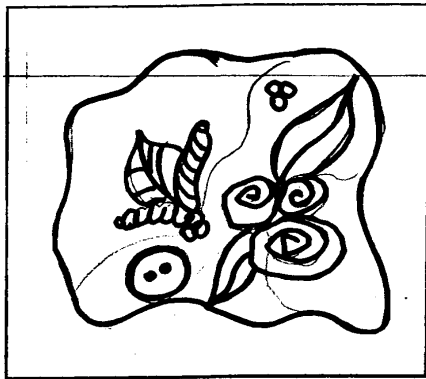
Using your craft knife, cut around the finished jewelry piece.

Before baking, deepen the lines in the diamonds. Brush gold powder onto the diamonds and bake following the manufacturers instructions.



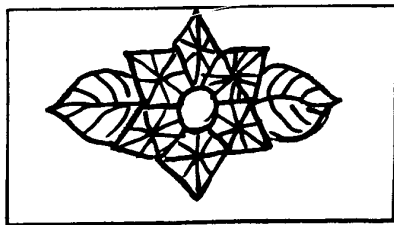
Using the mold, make 10 medium leaves out of green clay. Place the first five leaves in a star pattern creating a bottom layer. Place the second five leaves on the top layer, having each of the leaves of the second layer "point" between the leaves of the first layer.

Dust each leaf with gold powder. Roll up three itsy bitsy berries and place in the center of the brooch. Bake according to manufacturers directions.



Roll out a 1/8 layer of pink or flesh-toned clay. Cut a random shape and "crumple" the clay, creating nooks and crannies. Dust lightly with Gold Powder. Using the mold, make roses, large leaves, medium leaves, buttons, etc., creating your own design for each unusual brooch. Dust each of the flowers, and leaves with Gold Powder.

Bake according to manufacturers directions.



Using the mold, make six maroon diamonds and two medium green leaves. Make one berry in green. Place as indicated. Deepen the lines in the diamonds and dust each piece with Gold Powder and bake according to manufacturers instructions.

Beginning with a 3 inch eye pin, add one pearl, then a small ball

of marbled clay slightly bigger than the pearl. Then add three random “clay shapes”, two pearls, another marbled ball. Space the shapes loosely and make sure that a little bit of the eye pin wire sticks out of the last marbled ball. After baking, you will add the last pearl with glue to hold it in place. Add the ear wires after the earrings cool down.

With this method of building, you can create hundreds of designs by changing the size, color and order of the beads.

Roll out a 1/8 inch light colored clay base. Texturize the base by stabbing holes in the base. Using the mold and light-colored clay, make a cabochon, three roses and five itsy, bitsy leaves. You will need to make two small hand-made hearts for this piece as well.

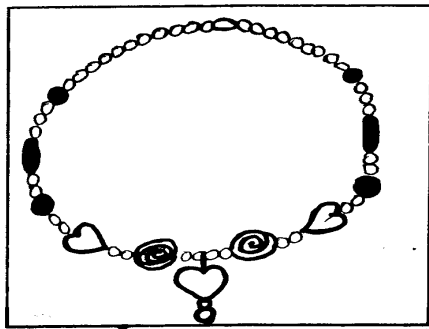


Following the illustration to the left, place the pieces as indicated, starting with the cabochon, adding the roses, leaves, coils and hearts. Cut out with the craft knife and bake following manufacturers instructions.

When cool, spray paint using a gold paint. When dry, rub black acrylic paint to give the piece an aged look.

Using the mold, make three hearts and two roses and one itsy bitsy leaf. Using a needle, make holes in the hearts and roses as indicated.

In one of the hearts, insert a wire loop through the heart so it will hang from the front of the necklace and allow you to add a bead and an itsy bitsy leaf at the bottom of the hanging heart.



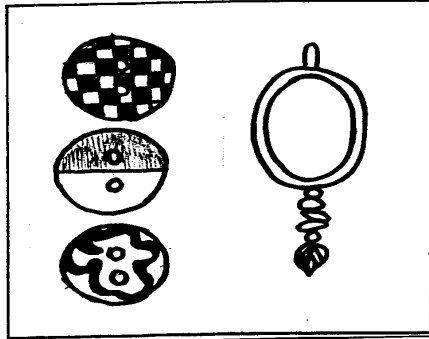
Mix black and pink clay and make two medium round beads, two small round beads, and two long beads, as indicated. Also make a threading hole in these beads as well.

Bake all of the beads. Measure out a pleasing length of dental floss picturing where the necklace will lay on your neck or chest. Tie one end of the floss to the clasp. Thread the pearls onto the dental floss. Keep adding beads as indicated making

sure the heart charm in front is in the exact middle of the floss. Follow the same pattern for the second side of the necklace. At the end, tie the floss to the other end of the clasp.

Buttons: Using your imagination, layer clays, mix clays, use clay canes to create custom buttons. After removing from the mold, Poke two holes where indicated with a needle and bake according to manufacturers instructions.

Cabochon charm: Roll out a 1/8 inch layer of dark polymer clay. Marbleize clay and make a cabochon. Lay on the base and put a coil of clay around it. Using a wire, make a loop and thread through the base layer and behind the cabochon so 1 inch sticks out the bottom. Thread pearls and beads ending with a small leaf at the bottom.



Cut out with the craft knife and bake according to manufacturers instructions.

FINISHING THE PIECES: After baking, you can spray with a high gloss or matte finish.



Preparing the Pens:

Supplies:

Character Pen Push Mold
Various colors of Polymer clay
X-acto knife
Parchment paper or ceramic tile to place clay on
Paper Towels
Faux Jewelry Jewels
Paper plate for painting
Paper cup for painting
Acrylic paints in the following colors:
Black, White, Red,
Brown, Blue
Small liner paintbrush
Papermate Flexgrip Ultra Ball Point Pens
Garlic press or piece of screen

The reason for the use of the Papermate Flexgrip Ultra Ball Point Pens is because you can unscrew the bottom silver part of the pen and remove the ink cartridge, which you will need to do to bake the polymer clay onto the empty pen cartridge. You will be working with two pens; one you will be making into a character pen and one will be used as a rolling pin.

Using the Mold:

1. Roll up a piece of the flesh-colored polymer clay into a smooth ball, about the size of the push mold cavity, and roll one end of the ball into a cone shape. Put the tip of the cone into the nose cavity of the push mold. Holding the clay as steady as possible, push the clay straight into the push mold and fill to capacity. Using another piece of flesh colored clay, push the clay onto the clay inside the push mold. This will act as a handle and help you to remove the character face. Using a toothpick, poke nostrils into the nose area. Put aside your character face.

Covering the Pen Cartridge:

Following the pictures included in the pattern, roll out a very thin (1/16 inch) pancake of clay, using your second pen as a rolling pin to smooth out the clay, and cover the outside of the pen. You can use a marble effect, or stripes; be creative.

For purposes of explanation, I will explain the project using the Santa above. Roll out the 1/16th inch pancake of red clay. Using your x-acto knife, and your pen to measure, cut a rectangle

approximately 1.5 inches wide and the length of the pen barrel. Wrap the red clay rectangle around the pen barrel and cut away any excess clay. If you are “short” in any area, you can piece a little clay onto the area and smooth with your fingers.

Creating the Pen Head:

Attach the Santa Face to the top of the pen. It will stick to the red clay already on the pen. Roll up another small flesh-colored clay ball, about ½ inch in diameter. Push your finger into one side of the ball, creating a conclave indentation. Put this ball onto the back of the pen to create a “back of Santa’s head”. Using your smoothing tooth or your finger, you can smooth the sides of the head to make sure it is attached firmly. Remember the heads will be covered with hair and sometimes with hats.

Making the Hat:

For Santa’s hat, as well as the Wizard’s hat, you take a 2 inch diameter ball of red clay and roll into a cone shape. Poke and smooth a hole at the thick side of the cone to create an opening to fit the head into. Smooth the edges/rim of the hat and make sure it is an even rim.

SAFETY INSTRUCTION: Any tool, plate, dish, spoon, or other tool used with polymer clay can no longer be use in food service. For example: If you use the garlic press in the next step, you can no longer use it to press garlic. It will become part of your clay tool set. If you use a dish or pan to bake the clay figures in, they are no longer suitable for food service.

Using the garlic press or a piece of screening, take white clay and push it through the press or the screen. It will produce the tiny, thin strands of hair. Attach one clump of white clay “hair” at a time to create the hair and beard. To create the mustache, you will need to remove one strand and lay between the nose and mouth.

To make the “fur” on Santa’s hat, you will put the white clay through the press or screen and only use short clumps of “hair”. Attach them to the rim of the hat and the tip of the hat until you have a nice layer of “fur”.

You can take two tiny brown peas of clay or white peas of clay and make small thin circles and attach as buttons. Poke two sew marks through the buttons.

You will be baking the hat and pen separately and gluing them when completed.

To Make the Pen Base/Holder:

Roll up any left over clay you have. This is a good project for scraps of clay. Roll up a ball about the weight and size of the pen’s head, and even slightly bigger. Then roll out another 1/16th inch of red clay and cover the base. Smooth the clay over the edges and smooth with your fingers. Take your spare rolling pin pen, and push the pen into the top of the base/holder

and wiggle just a little bit and remove the pen. You have now made the cavity that will hold the pen when completed.

Roll out a long white coil of clay and another long red coil of clay. Twist together to get the “candy cane” effect. Wrap around the bottom of the pen base/holder and cut off any excess. You can add a small candy cane to the front of the base, using the same twisting method.

Bake the polymer clay according to the polymer clay manufacturer’s baking instructions. Be careful to properly time your baking. Set a timer!

SAFETY PRECAUTION: Children should be supervised while baking polymer clay. Although it is a very safe product, if you over bake polymer clay, it will release toxic fumes. It is critically important that you set a timer when baking polymer clay so you do not over-bake and release the toxic fumes.

Painting the Character Pen Faces:

1. Paint the eyes white. Paint iris circles in blue or brown. Paint tiny black pupils and add a pin dot of white paint at 2:00 on the outside circumference of the pupil to finish the eyes.
2. Paint thin wispy lines to create eyebrows.
3. Add red and brown and a little white. Mix until you have a flesh-colored brownish pink. You don’t want a “lipstick” pink, you want a “lip color” pink. It helps to water down this mixture a little bit. It goes one more like a lip color rather than a lip stick.
4. Once the faces are dry, the pens are completed.

Other Tips on the Other Characters:

For the Pink Fairy pen, you can bake the doll “bald” and when cool, glue a little acrylic doll hair instead of making the hair out of clay. (Do not bake the acrylic hair) Her ears are made by taking tiny balls of flesh colored clay and shaping them into fairy ears. They are baked separately and glued on after the hair is applied.

For the Nun and Mary Pen, the veils are made by rolling out large rectangles of 1/16th clay and cutting a straight edge on one long end. Drape the rectangle onto the top of the head and create folds and cut off the bottom into a pleasing shape.

For the St. Patrick’s Day pen, you can create the hat by using the picture as a guide. The hat is baked separately and the acrylic hair and had are glued onto the head after baking.

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