

Family Art from Home

Clay Play

by Radka Apostalon

Have fun exploring some basic clay techniques while creating a figurative bowl to hold your special objects and treasures.

Supplies Needed

- Clay (Paper Clay, Playdough or any other clay variation)
- Water
- Skewer
- Paint
- Brush
- Mod Podge (optional)

How to Do It

Introduction

The base of this art project is a pinched bowl with limbs. The head and tail are attached to it later with the 'slip and score' attachment technique.

Making the Bowl

Start with the ball of clay rolled in between your palms. Insert your thumb into the center and push nearly to the bottom of the ball (approximately 1/4-inch thickness). Your index and middle finger are pressing the clay against your thumb starting at the bottom of the ball and turning after each pinch (or squeeze). Move toward the top rim as you keep pinching and rotating the ball. The ball will start to look more like bowl as you thin the wall and reach the rim. When the wall is thinned and still supportive, set aside and let stiffen slightly.

Creating the Limbs

Roll four cylinders for limbs and shape the head and neck. Attach cylinders to the pinched bowl with the 'slip and score' technique, wetting lightly both surfaces to be joined and scoring the same areas with a skewer. Press them gently together to make sure the surfaces bond well. Smooth any wrinkles or seams with your wet finger making sure that you do not saturate the clay surface with water as the clay will become soft and harder to work. Set aside, let dry.

Finishing the Surface

The surface can be painted with any type of paint. If you are using watercolors paint a white base coat on the surface first. Experimentation recommended. Add final features and embellishments. If desired, the whole pinched bowl creature can be painted with a thin layer of Mod Podge to add some shine to it. Enjoy!



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