

Making Air Dry Clay Faces

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Overview of Material and Process

Materials

Air Dry Clay:

- Mexican Pottery Terra Cotta Clay, Air-Dry
- Crayola White Air-Dry Clay
- Creatology Air Dry Clay, Sandstone

Finishes

- Tsukineko Walnut Ink Spray
- Golden Tube Acrylic Metallic Paint
- Inka Gold Metallic Wax

Process

Making the Mold: Choose a small three-dimensional face as our source of inspiration. Using the white air-dry clay, roll a smooth ball about the size of a tangerine. Flatten it into a biscuit shape and dust the front surface with baby powder. Press the front surface firmly but gently against the face that you have chosen and leave it for about 10 seconds. Very carefully remove the mold and set it on soft towels or tissue paper in a box to help it hold its shape while it dries. Let it dry for several hours or overnight until it is completely hard and stable.

Making the face: With the terra cotta clay (or the white clay, your choice) roll out a smooth ball about the size of a walnut. Dust the front of the ball with baby powder and press it into the mold, center first, then moving out to the edges. Remove from the mold by putting your fingers carefully under the edges of the face. Let dry completely and dust off the baby powder residue.

Finishing the face: Spray a thin coat of walnut ink over the air-dried face and wipe off immediately. Lightly brush the top surface of the face with metallic acrylic paint – a small sponge brush works well for this. Brush the highlights only, leave the crevices darker for a three-dimension enhancement. Mix a little Pearl Ex pigment powder with neutral shoe polish into a smooth paste, the very lightly rub on the surface of the face. You can also experiment with Gilder's Paste for an alternative iridescent finish.

Optional – use a small drinking straw to make holes on the edges of the face while it is still moist to attach to a surface or string beads or other embellishments.



Mold-making kit available at Michaels and online