

E-Z Heart Lesson by Elissa Powell

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While playing with a ball of scrap clay not too long ago, I discovered a different and embarrassingly easy way to make a perfect heart, without using a mold! It's so simple that I suspect I'm not the first to have thought of it, but I don't recall seeing it described before.

With this technique, there is still a bit of shaping and smoothing you will need to do, but the most challenging aspects of heart-making - the point and the "cleavage" - are a piece of cake!

All you will need is a tissue blade. You can easily make any size heart you want. Have fun!



Step One:

Start with a well-conditioned ball of clay, any size you want. This one is 1/4 of a small package of Premo.



Step Two:

Elongate slightly by rolling between your palms.



Step Three:

With your index finger, gently press and roll to narrow the middle, like a peanut. Try to keep the ends as rounded as possible.



Step Four:

With a clean sharp blade, slice the clay "peanut" evenly and diagonally. About 1/3 of the distance at either end should be undisturbed by the cut.



Step Five:

Turn one of the pieces over, and gently press the two cut surfaces together, aligning the edges. With fingers dipped in talc or cornstarch, adjust the shape. The point will need to be tapered slightly. Smooth with finger to erase the seams.



Here are two completed, raw hearts. By slightly varying the angle of the cuts, you can achieve different shapes of hearts!



The first two of these raw hearts were shaped the E-Z way, then covered with cane slices and smoothed between powdered palms. You may need to "cheat" a little, and accentuate the cleft with a folded business card.

The third heart was made with scrap clay and twisted before rolling into a ball, elongating, and slicing. A little more twisting after fitting the pieces together offsets the seam from the middle, and integrates it into the design!