

Polymer Clay Polyzine Tutorial: Textured Apple Pin

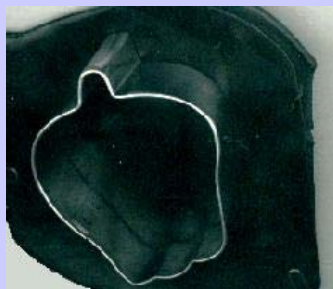
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This pin is made with black polymer clay and Pearl Ex pigments. The fun designs were all added using old cutlery "rescued" from secondhand stores.

I used a cookie cutter to cut a shape from a sheet of black clay. My sheet of clay is about 1/8 inch thick. You could use any shape or even cut your shape freehand.



Using the handle from many different kinds of cutlery, I covered a piece of black clay with a variety of textures.

I have found that dinner knives are the easiest to work with and the most plentiful.



An assortment of knives used in this project.



After completely covering the sheet of clay with textures from different knives, I lightly brush the surface of the design with Pearl Ex pigments.



Pearl Ex pigment comes in a wide variety of colors. For this project, I used Aztec Gold, Super Copper and Sunset Gold.

It is important to be very gentle when adding the powder to your project. I dip my finger in the powder, then tap off any excess before very lightly brushing the clay. Excess powder or too much pressure will fill in the texture and you won't get the contrast between the black clay and the color you are adding.



This picture shows the completely textured piece with the Pearl Ex rubbed on. At this point it is "interesting" but not quite finished.

Using a teardrop shaped piece of flat clay, I impressed veins onto a bit of black clay to make a leaf. I also textured the leaf with the handle of one of my knives. The leaf was then brushed with Super Copper Pearl Ex.



A piece of black clay was rolled out into a thin snake and used to decorate the face of my apple. Then the leaf was also pressed into place to finish the piece.



The finished piece is shown here. I had considered highlighting the black swirl with Pearl Ex Pigments, but I changed my mind. I like the way things turned out just fine! One note of **caution**, Pearl Ex and other powders act as a release agent for polymer clay. The embellishments will not stay firmly attached to the final piece without a bit of help. I baked my piece then easily removed the embellishments. Next, I reglued them into place with E6000. Super glue also works, or you can use Translucent Liquid Sculpey in a thin layer beneath the embellishment before the piece is baked. Pieces with Pearl Ex or other surface treatment applied to clay need to be sealed with Future or some other type of polymer clay friendly sealer.



Another sample of a pin and earrings made using this technique. I think once you start looking for textures in secondhand cutlery or almost anywhere else, you will find you can get some great effects just not available by using rubber stamps. Plus, it's a lot cheaper!

Don't forget, if you want to submit a project or other idea to pcPolyzine, we more than welcome your input! Write to us at pcPolyzine@pcPolyzine.com.

