



GLASS FROGS

Let's explore the incredible world of the rainforest and draw inspiration from one of its most fascinating inhabitants—the glass frog. Known for their translucent skin, these delicate creatures are truly unique. Often found perched on leaves above streams, the males diligently guard their eggs. In this project, Rebecca Bolde shares two tutorials—one beginner-friendly and one slightly more advanced—that will help you bring these beautiful frogs to life using translucent polymer clay and color pigments.

ABOUT REBECCA BOLDE

Rebecca's artistic journey began in the film and video industry. After a decade as a motion graphics artist, she found true joy in working with polymer clay. This discovery ignited a passion for exploring the beauty of nature and wildlife, particularly marine and amphibian life, through this unique medium. With her art, she aims to raise awareness and inspire awe for the precious creatures that call our planet home.



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PRODUCTS IN THE ADVENT CALENDAR

CERNIT POLYMER CLAY - TRANSLUCENT

Cernit White Translucent is renowned as one of the clearest translucent polymer clays available. It can be tinted with a small amount of colored clay or pigment while maintaining its impressive transparency after baking. Alternatively, you can paint directly onto its surface for stunning effects.

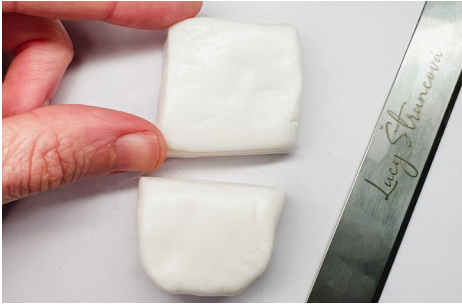
LUCY ŠTRUNCOVÁ'S NEON PIGMENTS

Lucy's pigments go beyond basic colors, offering special effects like metallic and neon options. The neon pigments emit a bold and electrifying glow. Inside the Advent Calendar, you have already discovered Neon Red; now you can expand your collection with Green on Yellow, found in Rebecca's drawer.

LIST OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Cernit translucent polymer clay
- aluminum foil
- thin-gauge metal wire
- masking tape
- wire cutters
- Lucy Štruncová's Neon Color Pigments
- acrylic paints
- gold metallic paint
- paint brushes
- sculpting tools
- rigid blade
- gloss varnish
- UV resin
- UV lamp
- nitrile gloves

SLEEPY FROG



The body of each frog is about a quarter of a package.



Begin sculpting the body by pinching the clay into a peanut shape, tapered at the base and flat on the bottom. Use a sculpting tool to create an indent in the back.



If creating multiple frogs, sculpt the bodies so each frog is similar in size. Work in a cool place or briefly chill the clay in the fridge if it gets too soft. You can also leach the clay by pressing it between two clean sheets of plain paper.



Roll out a thin piece of clay and pinch a right angle to shape the elbow.



Attach one end of the clay to the body about a third of the way down from the top of the head. Tuck the loose end of the arm under the chin, pinch off any excess clay, and smooth the joint by the shoulder.



Roll a thicker snake of clay and attach one end to the tapered end of the body. Pinch a fold to form a knee joint about a third of the way up the body.



Tuck another fold under the leg and pinch to form the ankle joint.



Pinch off any excess clay near the knee; attach the toes to this end. Smooth the seam where the hip joins the base of the leg. Flatten the hind feet to prepare for the toes.



Roll short, thin pieces of clay for toes. Frogs have five hind toes and four on each of their front legs.

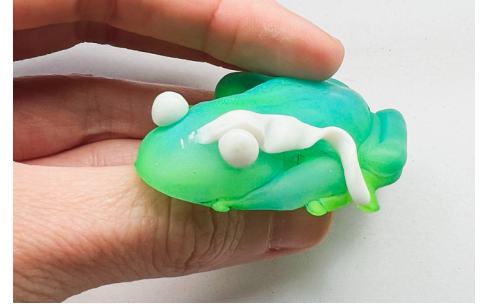
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Attach the toes of the hind feet so that the longest toe is the second from the outside of the foot, and smooth the seam. Roll a ball of clay for each toe, attach it to the tip of each toe, and pinch flat. Feel free to add toes tucked under the chin; the front toes are mostly hidden.



Color the frog however you like. Use a light touch of pigments on the toes to retain their translucency.



Roll two balls of clay for the eyes and position them on top of the head. Pinch a thin ribbon of clay and drape it over the top of the eyes. Repeat with a smaller ribbon of clay around the lower lid.



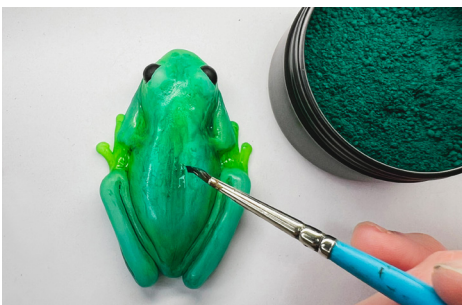
Smooth the outside edges into the body. Feel free to add more details like nostrils.



Powder any remaining raw clay with pigments and bake for 30 min, following the instructions of the manufacturer.



Paint the eyes black with acrylic paint or a thin paint marker.



Add darker color into the cracks and crevices of the frog using watered-down pigments or acrylic paints. Add shading to any recessed areas.



Paint the eyes with metallic gold acrylics or a mix of varnish and gold mica powder, leaving a thin line of black around the edges. Add tiny dots or thin black veins in the gold areas to create interesting flecks.



Using a pointed tool or wooden skewer and a light-colored acrylic paint, add dots over the body of the frog.

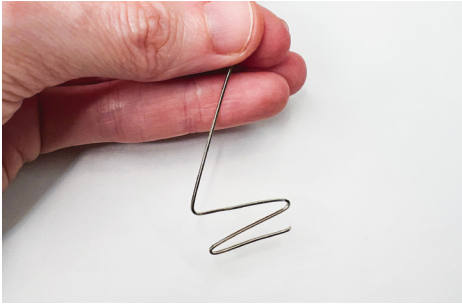
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Paint a thin slit in the center of the eye, wider in the middle and tapered at the ends. For a more dilated pupil, paint a thicker slit or a small circle instead.



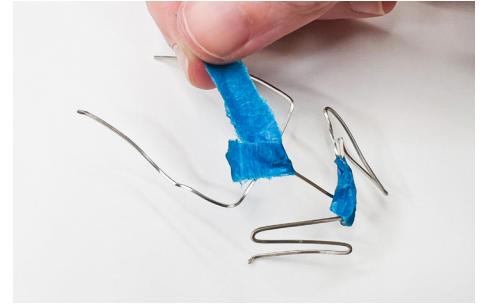
SITTING FROG



Start with a wire armature which will help support the arms and legs, maintaining the frog in a seated position. Cut a length of wire and create three bends to form the hip, knee, and ankle joints.



Repeat with the other leg, and wrap the excess wire around the hip joint to secure it in place.



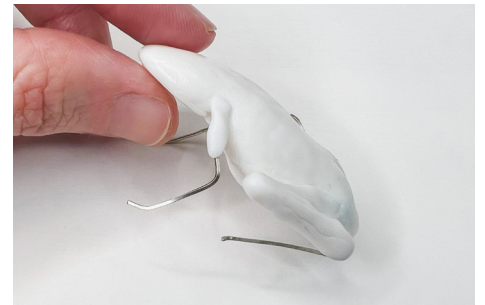
Cut a longer length of wire for the arms. Create two right-angle bends for the shoulder joints and secure them in the center with wire. Wrap a bit of masking tape around the joints to secure them further and hide any sharp edges.



Bend the arms forward and create another right-angle bend on each arm, pointing downward. These will be the elbow joints.



Begin wrapping bits of clay around the armature, covering any exposed wire.



Add additional clay to form the head, pinching the top into a tapered edge. Pre-bake according to your clay's instructions. This will secure your work in place and allow you to see any thin areas where the armature peeks through the translucent clay.



Add more clay to cover any thin areas and further bulk out the form. Be sure to add enough clay to any areas you want to color later. Using a small piece of clay, create the frog's spine and smooth it back down into the body. Add two small holes for the nostrils.



Roll two balls of clay for the eyes and position them on top of the head. Drape a thin ribbon of clay around the upper lid of each eye. Repeat with a smaller ribbon of clay around the lower lid. Smooth the outer edges back into the body.



Roll short, thin pieces of clay for the toes. Position the toes so that the longest toe is the second from the outside of the foot. Roll small balls of clay and press them into each toe.

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The toes are often webbed, which aids in swimming. Roll a very thin ribbon of clay, pick up the cluster of toes, and position them with your blade onto the ribbon about halfway down the length of the toe. Smooth all seams.



Place the toes at the end of each leg and smooth them down, adding a bit more clay to shape the area as needed.



Using a soft brush, powder the raw clay with pigments of your choice. Use a light touch of pigments on the toes to retain their translucency.



Pick up the frog with your blade and carefully place it on aluminum foil. Bake for 30 min according to the clay manufacturer's instructions.



Using a darker wash of either watered-down pigments, acrylic paint, or alcohol inks, dab into the cracks and crevices of the frog. Add shading to any recessed areas.



Paint the eyes black with acrylic paint or a thin paint marker. Then with metallic gold acrylics or a mix of varnish and gold color pigment, leaving a thin line of black around the edges. Paint a thin slit in the center of the eye, wider in the middle and tapered at the ends. Using a pointy tool or wooden skewer, add light-colored acrylic paint in dots around the legs and body.



Using a polymer clay-safe glossy varnish, coat the piece and allow it to dry. Follow with an additional coat or two.



Dab UV resin over the eyes to create a dome shape, bringing the eyes to life. Cure under the sun or with a UV light. Be sure to work with nitrile gloves in a properly ventilated space.