



SKULL TUTORIAL

When sculpting or creating a detailed piece that might take hours to make, we tend to avoid doing it multiple times. Yet, there is a simple way to duplicate such delicate artwork. "In this tutorial, I demonstrate how to sculpt a skull and duplicate it using the fantastic Cosclay products," says Christopher Notbusch, author of this tutorial. He has been working with Cosclay since its beta testing phase and has become a great ambassador for these clay products. "They have revolutionized my working process and elevated my artwork. I hope to guide others in achieving similar results."

ABOUT CHRISTOPHER NOTBUSCH

A self-taught traditional polymer clay sculptor based in the central U.S., Christopher Notbusch creates fantastical creatures and heroes. When he was 10 years old, his grandmother, an oil painter, bought him a book called *Modeling with Polymer Clay* by David Kracov, which paved the way for him to become one of the foremost polymer clay sculptors, known for his meticulous attention to detail and craftsmanship.



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PRODUCTS IN THE ADVENT CALENDAR

COSCLAY GREY SCULPT - MEDIUM FIRM

This specially formulated blend is designed for sculptors and model makers looking to take their intricate works to a whole new level. You can choose between Soft, Medium-Firm, or Extra-Firm consistency based on the type of artwork you create. The Sculpt line has high strength, blends with ease, will not sag in the oven, and has minimal color shift.

LIST OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Cosclay Sculpt - Medium Firm
- Cosclay C1 Separator Liquid
- small piece of wood
- Sculpting tools
- small ball stylus
- palette knife
- wax carving metal tool
- 2 old paintbrushes

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Remove some clay and mix it until it is nice and squishy.



Form a small ball about the size of the desired skull.



Smooth the ball onto the wood, maintaining an even thickness.



Draw two center lines that cross in the middle.



Trim the sides of the head using the middle line to ensure that it is even on both sides.



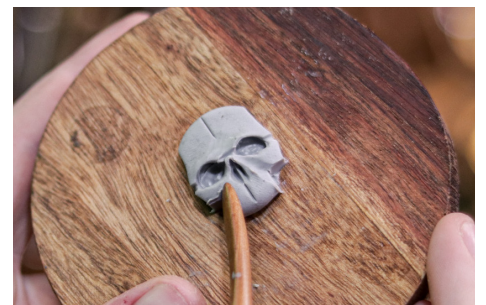
Start placing the eyes with a ball stylus, ensuring that the space is even on both sides by using the middle line.



Use a thin shaping tool to create the nose cavity by pushing it in.



Remove the bottom corners to reveal the separation between the cheekbones and the upper jaw.



Using the newly established corner, push the cheek down to the corner of the eye.

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Slide the tool along the surface of the upper jaw to redefine the plane of the jaw.



Use the ball stylus to refine the nose and achieve its final shape.



Push in the temples.



Add the dents between the cheekbone and the upper jaw.



Plan out the spacing of the teeth with vertical lines.



Use this tool or something similar to define the line of separation between the teeth and the bone.



Create indentations in the bone right between the spaces of the teeth on the skull.



Add extra clay to the canines to really make them stand out.



Smooth the surface with isopropyl alcohol and a brush to remove any harsh tool marks and fingerprints.

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Add lines and cracks using a thin line-making tool.



Use the ball stylus to stipple small dots and create other textures to make the bone really come to life. After you are satisfied, bake the sculpture, wood and all, at 275°F (130°C) for at least 35 minutes.



Apply C1 separator to the baked skull using a brush, and either let it dry or use a heat gun/hair dryer if you are impatient like I am. Repeat this step twice to ensure proper coverage.



Once the second coat of C1 is dry, smooch clay into the sculpture with force, starting with the deepest areas first and working your way out. Once the skull is covered all around, place it in the oven again at 275°F (130°C) for 35 minutes.



Remove the sculpture from the board using a palette knife or a similar tool. Carefully take the original sculpture out of the mold by working on the edges all around and wiggling it loose. This process can be easy or difficult, depending on the depth of the details.



Paint C1 into the mold, applying two coats to be safe.



Smash the clay into the mold, starting with the deepest areas first, until it is full. Scrape away the excess, leaving the back flat.



Place the mold with the clay inside into the oven at 275°F (130°C) for 35 minutes to copy the previous skull head.



Demold the replica using the same method you used to remove the original.

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This approach opens the door to efficiently creating detailed sculptures made from a durable, flexible material—the possibilities are truly endless!

