



CUSTOMIZED TEXTURES

Have you ever considered making your own textures for polymer clay art? While scrap clay is often used for this purpose, creating flexible textures could significantly enhance their versatility—don't you agree? Cindy Lietz introduces an innovative approach using CosClay products to craft "Embossers" and "Debossers", negative and positive home-made textures, unlocking endless creative possibilities. "I recommend starting with a small project, like the size of your palm, and carefully considering the scale of your patterns. Smaller, more closely spaced textures work best for jewelry and small sculptures," Cindy advises. "But don't be afraid to break the rules—it's your art, after all!"

ABOUT CINDY LIETZ

Cindy Lietz is a polymer clay artist and educator with years of experience sharing her techniques with clay enthusiasts. Through her Polymer Clay Tutor project, she has guided countless artists in exploring practical and creative approaches to working with polymer clay. Known for her approachable teaching style, Cindy enjoys helping both beginners and experienced creators unlock their artistic potential.



<https://www.youtube.com/@PolymerClayTutor>
www.polymerclaytutor.com



PRODUCTS IN THE ADVENT CALENDAR

COSCLAY FLEXFLO is a liquid polymer that cures to a semi-opaque, flexible finish with the same density as Cosclay Clay. It's ideal for creating flexible mold castings, coatings, and surface details. FLEXFLO can be tinted with alcohol inks, mica powders, or other pigments, offering customizable, durable results.

COSCLAY STRETCH FX liquid cures to a translucent, highly stretchy finish, perfect for applications needing extreme flexibility. It can be used alone or mixed with FLEXFLO to enhance flexibility of your molds and customized with pigments for vibrant effects.

LIST OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- CosClay polymer clay
- CosClay C1 Separator
- CosClay Stretch FX
- items to create texture
- cornstarch
- fluffy brush
- baking surface
- brushes
- roller
- machine
- rubbing alcohol
- fine mist spray bottle with isopropyl alcohol
- bowl of hot water
- round tipped palette knife
- oven thermometer

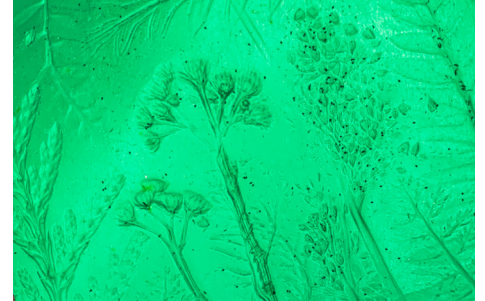
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Roll out a sheet of well conditioned CosClay around 4.8mm thick. If necessary, dust the sheet with cornstarch, so that the items you press into the clay do not stick.



Decorate your texture sheet however you want - with plants, leaves, shells, fabric, thread, woodgrain, crinkled aluminum foil, feathers, nuts... or you can create your own design using different tools.



Use a roller for pressing the items into the clay surface.



Place the textured sheet of clay - "Embosser" on the baking surface and put it into a preheated oven for 135°C oven to bake for 30 mins.



Apply the Separator liquid with the brush while the clay is still warm. Once dry add at least two more layers. Brush in different directions to make sure you have covered every part. Any miss area will be difficult to separate your Stretch FX from later. Let the Separator dry.



Warm up your baked "Embosser" sheet into the oven for 5 minutes. Also warm the bottle of Stretch FX by placing it into a bowl with hot water. Warm liquid clay releases bubbles much better. Add a thin layer of the Stretch FX onto the sheet with a fine bristled brush. Into all the nooks and crannies and the entire background. Take care not to trap any air bubbles.



Pour on a thick layer of Stretch FX into the wet uncured first layer of Stretch FX to create your "Debosses" sheet. Start going around the outside, making a bit of a dam. Leave a little room around the edge so the Stretch FX doesn't flow over the edge.

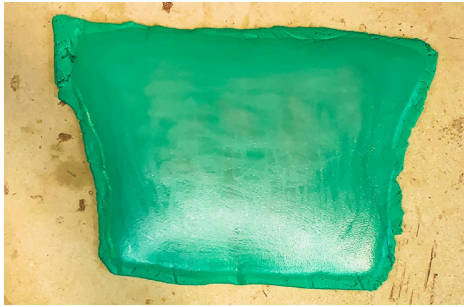


Fill the inside with a thick layer of Stretch FX. Make sure it completely fills all the crevices and textures you made in your clay "Embosser" plus a fairly thick coating over the background. At least 2 - 3 mm thick.

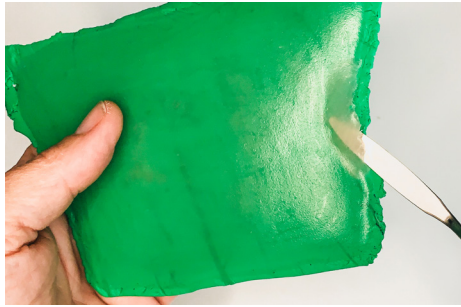


Let the liquid layer rest for 15 minutes. If you see any bubbles, mist them very lightly with a fine spray of 99% Isopropyl Alcohol, which will instantly pop any bubbles on the surface. Lower the oven temperature to 121°C and put everything into the oven to bake for 30 - 40 minutes.

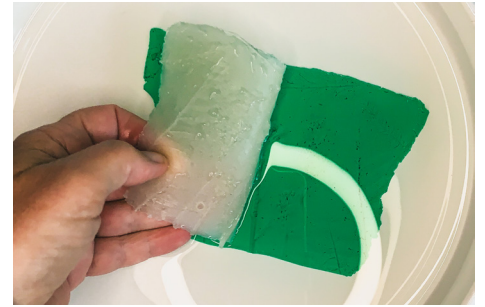
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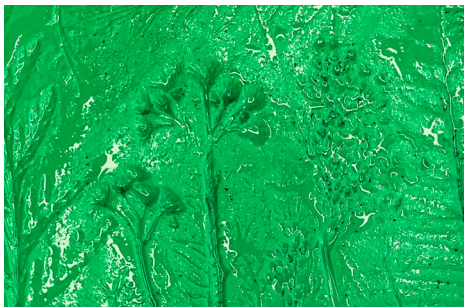
Once Stretch FX is cured it will look translucent, with a few micro bubbles, which is fine, and have a bit of a sheen. If after cooling the Stretch FX seems too soft and not rubbery, then bake it for a little longer.



Take the cooled sandwich and place into a dish of cool water to soak. Use a round tipped palette knife to help separate the layers.



Keep setting the pieces back into the water to help loosen the Separator. It will take some time but it becomes easier once you have enough of both sides to hold onto.



This is what the "Embosser" looks like once separated. If you are finding the CosClay and Stretch FX are just not separating without tearing the Stretch FX, the Stretch FX is probably too thin, or you didn't use enough of Separator. Add more Stretch FX and bake again, or pull off the torn bits and start again with a new Stretch FX layer.



This is what the "Debosser" looks like once separated.



Use the "Embosser" by pressing them into a raw sheet of polymer clay. Add a bit of cornstarch on the "Embosser" and a deli sheet (wax paper) on top, to keep the clay from sticking.



Separate the "Embosser" from the sheet.



Then you can also use the "Debosser" into a sheet of raw clay.



Using the Stretch FX "Debosser" means that you don't need to use cornstarch or deli sheets to keep the clay from sticking to your texture sheet or your tools, as it works quite well as a rubber stamp.

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You can bray a layer of paint or ink onto the surface of the "Deboss" and press into raw clay or baked clay. This technique will also work well on paper, fabric, and Gelli Plate.

Enjoy the possibilities of the "Emboss" and "Deboss" sets, there are so many options you can explore! Experiment with Flexflo and Stretch FX liquids to customize the firmness or flexibility of textures in your art.



ADDITIONAL TIPS FROM CINDY

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CLAY TO WORK WITH

In this case, I used Green CosClay Deco, but you could use any color or formula, such as Doll or Sculpt. CosClay is ideal because of its high level of flexibility. And if you have any scrap clay, that would be perfect!

USING THE EMBOSSER WITH CURVED SURFACES

Because the “Embosser” is made with CosClay, it is quite flexible and can be pressed around soft curves such as bowls, vases, broad sculptures, etc.

BAKING THE EMBOSSER WITH LIQUID CLAY IN

Since the texture sheets are oven-safe, you can also bake either liquid clay or solid clay in your “Embosser” like a mold. However, you must use the Separator every time; otherwise, they will bond together, just like raw and baked clay always does when baked.

ADDING COLOR

You can add color to the liquid to customize the final color of your sheet. I love Lucy Struncova’s pigments, but you can use any pigment, including shaved chalk pastels. Another option is oil paint or alcohol ink, but use these sparingly, as too much can cause the liquid to remain sticky and create bubbling.

OTHER POSSIBILITIES

There are many other ways to use the versatile liquids from CosClay—such as a glaze for baked pieces, a colored paste for stenciling techniques, or for backfilling.

USING STRETCH FX FOR IMAGE TRANSFERS

You can even use Stretch FX for image transfers. Simply spread a layer of Stretch FX onto a toner/laser-printed image, magazine pages, certain napkins, or wrapping paper (you’ll need to test first). Use your oven or heat gun to cure the Stretch FX. Once cured, you can peel away the paper to reveal a permanent image transfer that can be added to other clay pieces. Remember to reverse the image if it includes text, or ensure your layer of Stretch FX is thin enough to see through.