



WINTER BROOCH

Winter has arrived, drawing inspiration from the frozen beauty of nature—water turning into snowflakes and the season’s cozy warmth. Inspired by these scenes, Lilia created a Winter Crow brooch, a project that tests both patience and precision in its tutorial.

ABOUT LILIA FADEEVA

Lilia Fadeeva has been crafting with polymer clay for years. A life-long lover of creativity, she now focuses on designing brooches. Her work showcases the medium’s potential, resulting in elegant, refined, and meticulously crafted jewelry.

[instagram.com/l.fadeeva_art](https://www.instagram.com/l.fadeeva_art)





PRODUCTS IN THE ADVENT CALENDAR

SET OF MINI CUTTERS

Mini circle cutters are essential in polymer clay art for creating precise, consistent shapes, detailing, layering, and interesting patterns. Plus, they save time and ensure accuracy in designs. The set of 40 mini cutters will come in handy when creating Lilia's Winter brooch, as well as for many projects in the coming days.

LIST OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- polymer clay: white, light yellow, yellow, orange, red-orange, red, light blue, light green, dark green, gray and black
- pasta machine or roller
- wet wipes
- gloves
- glass surface or tile
- plastic wrap
- liquid clay
- glossy varnish
- extruder
- instant glue
- cutters ø 1.5, 2.5, 10 mm
- silicone modeling tools
- ball tools
- needle tool or stylus
- scalpel
- brush
- texture sponge sheet
- blade
- brooch pin
- printed template

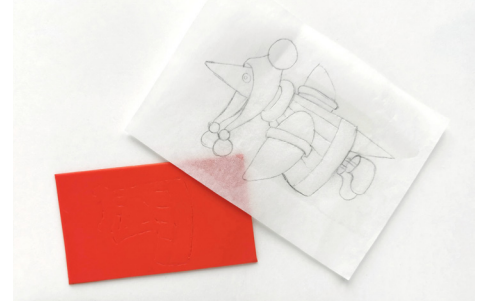
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Condition the clay of all colors and shades. In this case: white, light yellow, yellow, orange, red-orange, red, light blue, light green, dark green, gray and black. You can use any other color combination.



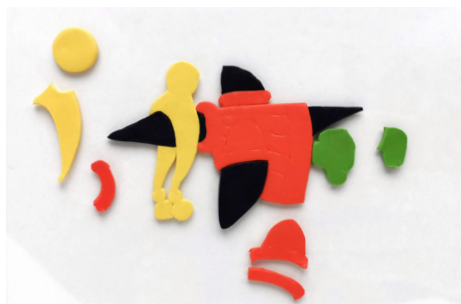
Roll out into sheets of clay at setting 2, 3 or 4 of the machine, working in different thickness of layers will result in a multi layered dimensional design: red for coats (3), sleeves and collar (4). Yellow for main hat base (3) and additional front of hat and pom pom (4). Green for boots, common silhouette and front boot (4). Black for head, neck and tail (3), then for right wing (4) and left wing (2).



Duplicate each element from the template on the conditioned sheets of clay, using a needle tool or stylus, according to the color and thickness of the layer.



Cut out the resulting elements using scalpel. For a pompom, cut out a circle using a 10 mm cutter.



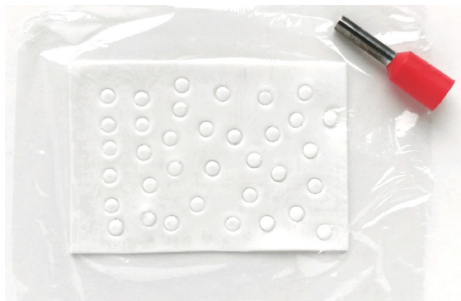
Connect the main layer of elements onto a piece of glass or ceramic surface.



Create volume by putting additional elements on top of the pattern: sleeve cuff, collar, boot and hat. For a pompom, roll a circle into a ball, press a little to flatten. Create an additional layer of volume on the cap below the pompom to tassels.



Smooth out all the elements with silicone shapers. Press the edge lines onto the coat using a silicone chisel tip. Smooth them out using wet wipes.

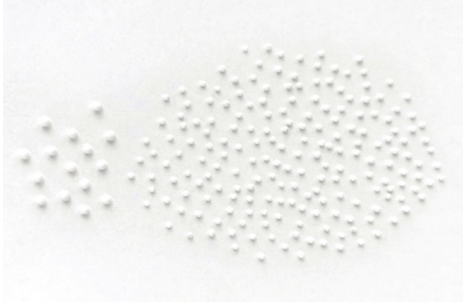


Roll out a thin sheet of white clay with thickness 9 on the pasta machine. Cut out little circles using a small 1.5 cutter through the plastic wrap.



For small balls, cut a few circles into 4 parts.

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Roll everything into tiny balls, making sure they stay clean and round.



Start placing the tiny balls onto the black wing area, pressing them with a ball tool and flattening a bit.



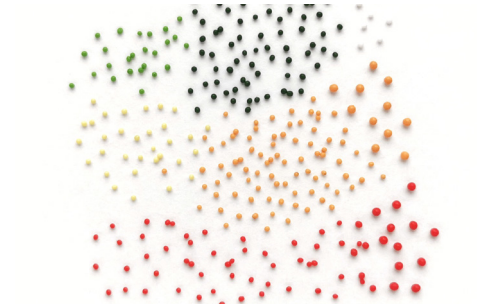
You can play with patterns of snowflakes, or create more abstract polka dots.



Use rows of dots and balls to decorate wings, and tail.



Use the following colors of clay: white, light yellow, orange, red, green, dark green. Roll out thin sheets of the clay colors - number 9 on the machine.



Cut each dot through the plastic wrap using a 1.5 mm cutter. Cut the resulting circle into 4 parts to obtain small balls. Roll the dots into balls.



With orange dots, create the same pattern on the coat bottom as on the crow's wings.

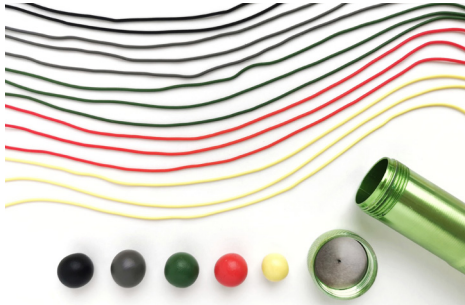


Cut out thin strips of clay - red, green and dark green colors. Place them on the hat and shoes. Use sculpting tools to help with placement.



Place the colorful dots on hat, pressing them using a ball tool. You can cover individual areas including the pom-pom.

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Extrude thin strings using the smallest round single hole disk. Condition clay well. Use the following clay colors: light yellow, red, dark green, gray and black.



First use a string of gray, black and dark green. For the legs of the crow, use 2 strings, one each of black and gray colors. Place the recessed leg first, and continue with the boot a contour of a dark green string.



Wrap the tail along the contour with a gray string. Then wrap the front boot around the top contour with a dark green string in front of the recessed leg. Map out an order of string placement for best results.



Lay a dark green string to contour the bottom of the forward boot. Lay a second dark green string at top of the forward boot. Press it a little with a silicone brush to flatten. Then place the black and gray strings for the front leg on top of flattened green string. Place the dark green string along the contour, completing the top of the boot.



The next step is the design of the coat and wings. Use gray and red clay strings.



Wrap the far wing of the crow with a string of gray clay. Use red clay string to contour the far sleeve and along the horizontal lines on the coat. Ending at a vertical line at coat bottom. Wrap a string of red clay around the outline of the coat. After this, wrap the crow's front wing along the contour with a string of gray clay. End with wrapping the sleeve and collar of the coat with a red clay string.



To decorate the hat and head of the crow, you will need a clay string of light yellow and gray colors. Wrap along the contour the upper left and far parts of the cap with light yellow. Press to attach with a silicone tool. Then wrap the crow's head with a gray clay string.



Place the light yellow clay string along the contours of the hat.



Roll out thin layers of light blue and black clay on the number 9 of the machine for the eye. Cut out the circles using 2.5 mm for light blue and 1.5 mm cutter for black.

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First, place a blue circle for the eye and press flat. Then add a smaller black circle for the pupil and a small ball of white clay to highlight. Press to flatten with a silicone tool. Bake it in the oven for 30 minutes.



Using super glue, attach the base of the brooch pin to the back of the piece.



Roll out layers of clay of light yellow, red, gray and dark green colors on the 5 thickness of the machine.



Add a bit of liquid clay on the back side of the baked brooch. Cut out corresponding elements for the back using the crow template drawing. Arrange them according to the colors used on the front side.



Cut away the excess clay with a scalpel. Use a silicone brush and wet wipes to smooth the edges.



Apply a texture with texture sponge. Bake it in the oven for the last 30 minutes. Now the brooch is ready, congratulations!

