



FLOWER SCULPTURE

Molds are essential tools for transferring shapes and textures onto polymer clay. While you can purchase ready-made molds for convenience, their shapes and sizes are often limited. Why not try making your own? In an inspiring tutorial, Svetlana Matveeva shows you how to create a beautiful Flower Sculpture using handmade molds. Along the way, she shares plenty of useful tips and techniques to elevate your projects.

ABOUT SVETLANA MATVEEVA

After ten years of working with polymer clay, Svetlana Matveeva remains captivated by this medium, driven by her passion for fantasy and floral designs. Her artwork blends polymer clay with handmade crystals, creating dreamy sculptures that transport viewers to fantastical worlds beyond reality. For Svetlana, nature is a source of wonder and magic, and her sculptures beautifully capture this sentiment.



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PRODUCTS IN THE ADVENT CALENDAR

Cosclay C1 Separator

The C1 Separator is a water-based, non-toxic medium designed to act as a barrier between raw and cured Cosclay, allowing for seamless separation after baking. Ideal for creative projects, it enables polymer clay to be used as a mold for itself, making it perfect for tasks like crafting custom ball-jointed doll parts.

To use, apply two coats to a cured clay surface, let them dry, then add raw polymer clay and bake. Once cooled, the pieces will easily separate, ensuring smooth and precise results.

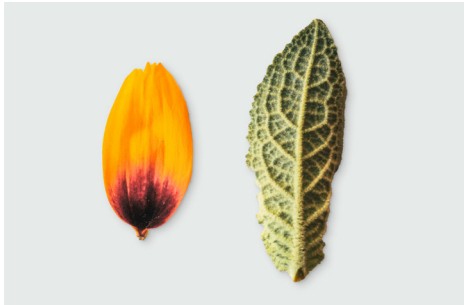
Cosclay Firm FX

Cosclay Firm FX is a versatile liquid polymer designed to expand creative possibilities for artists and sculptors. This unpigmented liquid cures to an opaque, firm finish with a greater density than regular liquid clay. It can be used on its own to create flexible, detailed castings from molds or to enhance sculptures as a coating, bonding agent, surface treatment, or paint medium.

LIST OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- real petal and leaf for molds
- Cosclay polymer clay
- Cosclay C1 Separator
- Cosclay C2 Clear Bond Adhesive
- Cosclay Firm FX
- wire 0.7, 0.3 mm
- acrylic paints
- brushes
- scalpel
- talc powder
- aluminium foil

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Find a lovely petal and a leaf with a beautiful texture.



Apply Cosclay Firm FX on the chosen leaf and petal and bake for 15 minutes. Usually the back of the leaf is more well defined.



Remove plant parts using water and brush and cut unnecessary excess around the edge with scalpel.



Apply Cosclay C1 Separator on the textured side of the mold. One two layers is enough. You can use a hairdryer to dry the Separator a little.



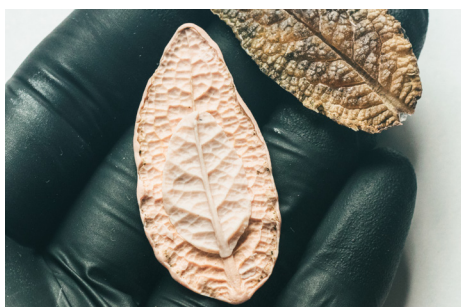
Cover the mold with a thin sheet of Cosclay polymer clay and bake.



Wait until molds are completely cooled down and take them apart. You have a set of molds.



Now it's time to duplicate the leaves. Make a leaf shape from clay and place it into the mold.



Press the element between mold parts. You need an extra-firm density clay. If your clay sticks inside the mold you need to leach it. Additionally, you can use talc to extract clay easily.



Remove the mold and clay from each other. Shape the leaf a little bit in your hands to give it a natural shape.

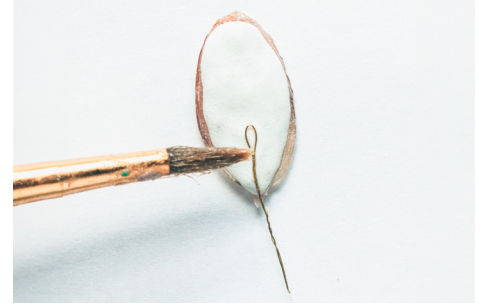
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Apply Cosclay C2 Clear Bond Adhesive on the 0.5 - 0.7 mm thick wire with a loop at its end.



Place the wire inside the leaf and bake for 30 minutes in the oven. Repeat for more leaves.



For making petals, cover the petal mold with light 1 - 2 mm thick clay. Place 0.3 mm wire with a loop onto the leaf and apply C2 Clear Bond Adhesive on it.



Add a small piece of clay onto the wire loop to cover it.



Press the clay between the petal mold parts.



Remove the petal from the mold and adjust the petal shape.



Start sculpting the face part by creating a 3 cm ball from grey clay.



By using sculpting tools, mold the grey ball, add two little balls as eyes, shape place around, nose and forehead.



Using silicone brushes, smooth everything and create a hole for the mouth.

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When you are happy with your face, bake in the oven for 30 minutes. You can bake in a baking soda so the face does not flatten when placed onto tile.



By using Cosclay C1 Separator, you can make a mold for your face to replicate it anytime. Apply a thin layer of the Separator onto the face.



Cover the face with a piece of clay and bake for 30 minutes.



Wait until the element is completely cooled down and take the clay apart from the face. Now your face mold is created and you can make more replicas.



Make a stem and roots of the sculpture from several pieces of wire twisted to connect together.



Using an aluminium foil and clay, form a bulb, stem and roots armature.



Adjust the shape by adding more pieces of clay and sculpting the whole area so it holds well together.



For making a cup for our sculpture, start by sculpting a bowl with your fingers from white clay.



Add a base of the cup - a flattened ball.

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Apply a little bit of Cosclay C2 Clear Bond Adhesive and attach the bottom to the bowl. You can smooth the seam with a sculpting tool and add a bit of additional clay.



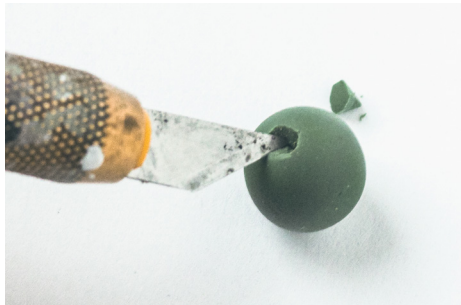
Using a sharp scalpel, cut away part of the cup for a broken effect.



Attach a handle using a little bit of the C2 Clear Bond Adhesive and bake for 30 minutes.



When cooled down, place the created armature into the cup using a bit of clay and C2 Clear Bond Adhesive and bake again for 30 minutes.



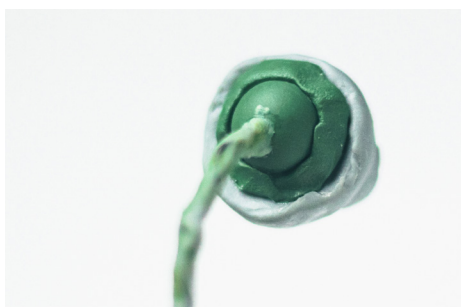
Make a ball from clay, around 1 cm in diameter. You can use colored clay. Cut out a small hole where the wire tip of the flower head will fit.



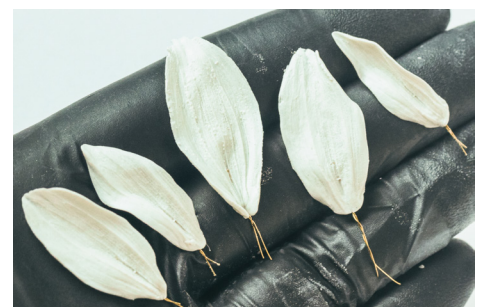
Attach the ball on the top of the stem using more clay and C2 Clear Bond Adhesive. Bake for 30 minutes.



Cover the ball with two layers of Cosclay C1 Separator. Use the replicated face, cut away the back excess clay to make sure it will fit the ball perfectly, connect it to the ball on the armature.



Fill the back areas with more clay to secure and connect to the face rim, leaving less than a half of the ball uncovered. Bake for 30 minutes in the oven. Wait until it's completely cooled down, then you can rotate and change the position of the flower head, thanks to the layer of Separator that helped to create the ball-joint.



Prepare your pre-made petals, in this case around 12 pieces.

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Using the C2 Clear Bond Adhesive, start attaching the petals to the backside area of the face.



From the front side, they will create a nice flower around the face.



Continue adding little leaves you created previously and duplicated with mold to secure the petals.



Let's make a couple of crystals that will grow on the sculpture. Use Flexflo and Firm FX liquids. Make small containers out of foil. Fill containers with both liquids individually.



After baking, each one of them will get a different transparent effect.



Remove the foil and cut the baked liquid blocks into several parts.



Using a sharp scalpel, cut the pointing areas to imitate the shape of the crystal.



Both will look nice when pointed to the light. Flexflo and Firm FX crystals will have a bit different effect we can combine.



Using the C2 Clear Bond Adhesive, attach the crystals to the armature base, and play with the remaining wires and leaves to create a lovely composition.

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Bake the final sculpture for 30 minutes.



Now you can paint your sculpture or certain parts with acrylic paints in the colors of greens. Feel free to mix your own shades.



By blending the paints on the flowers and face, you can achieve a nice gradient that will add depth to our sculpture.



Let dry, and your flower sculpture is done!

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