



BUTTERFLY SUN CATCHER

In this tutorial you'll learn how to make a beautiful polymer clay butterfly sun catcher. As a lover of nature and the patterns found within, butterflies and simple florals are used to create a piece with variety and depth. "As someone who likes to play with light, I wanted to create a design that not only lets light shine through it but also makes light dance around the room in Technicolor," says Ellen Randall.

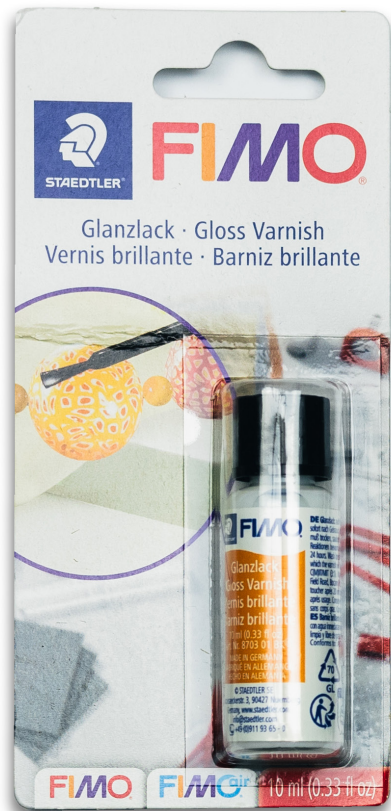
ABOUT ELLEN RANDALL

I began working with polymer clay five years ago, and I quickly developed an interest in adding intricate details to my creations," says Ellen Randall, a UK-based artist with a background in embroidery. Heavily inspired by nature, florals, animals, and landscapes, she adds, "I'm passionate about experimentation, and my pieces often explore unique concepts in how they can be worn."



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PRODUCTS IN THE ADVENT CALENDAR

FIMO POLYMER CLAY - SILVER & WHITE

Silver polymer clay serves as an excellent base for crafting your butterfly shape, while white clay offers great possibilities when tinting with pigments to create custom colors.

FIMO VARNISH

Enhance the metallic elements of your butterfly with a glossy finish using Fimo varnish.

COLOR PIGMENT SAMPLES - TEAL & FUCHSIA

These vibrant pigments can be used to color polymer clay or liquid clay, creating stunning translucent effects in your butterfly wings.

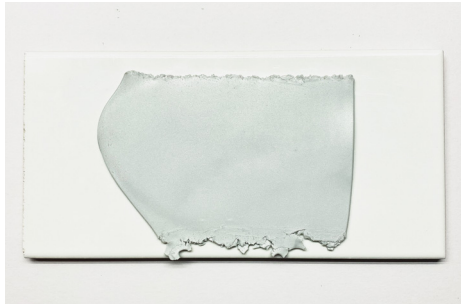
LIST OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Fimo polymer clay - silver and white
- paper templates
- tile
- pasta machine or roller
- craft knife
- liquid clay
- Lucy Struncova's Color Pigment - fuchsia and teal
- cocktail sick or silicone tool
- small metal cutters
- needle tool or needle
- 10 mm Jump rings
- steel chain
- small sun catcher or glass beads
- large sun catcher bead
- keychain split ring for hanging
- varnish and paint brush

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Print off and cut out the butterfly template provided.



Roll out silver clay to maximum thickness on a pasta machine or 2 - 3 mm.



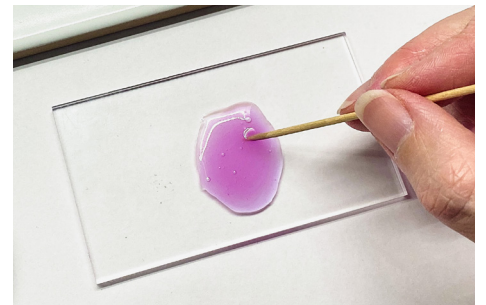
Burnish clay to a tile and place the template on top. It can help to burnish the template to clay also.



Place the template on the sheet. Cut around the shape as well as the individual wing sections. Remove the template from clay.



Remove cut sections from the tile and bake according to packet instructions for 30 minutes. Do not remove it from the tile.



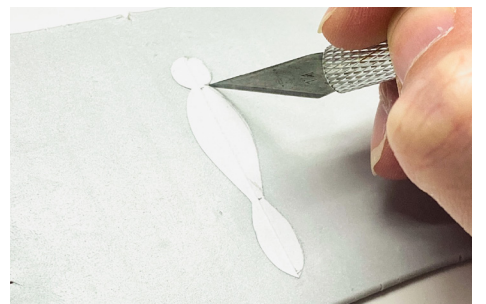
Place liquid clay on a tile and mix in some fuchsia pigment powder. Different amounts of pigment will create different depths of color.



Fill wing sections in a mirror image pattern.



Repeat with the teal colour pigment and fill the remaining areas. When all sections are filled, bake for 15 minutes.



Roll a thin layer of silver clay at a number 5 setting on the pasta machine or 1 - 2 mm. Using the template, cut out the body shape.



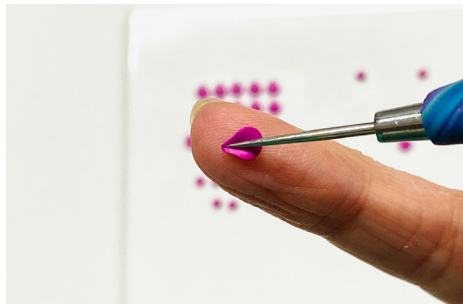
Prepare the fuschia and teal pigments to mix into the piece of white clay.



I recommend wearing gloves and using a very small amount as a little goes a long way.



Roll the pink mix of clay to a 1 mm thick sheet and cut out petal shapes using a micro cutter.



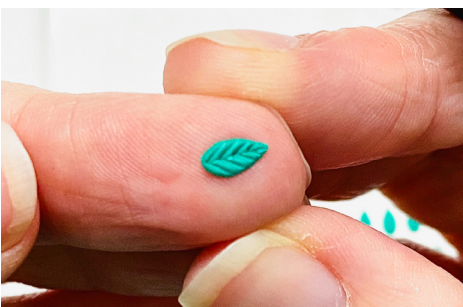
To shape the petals, slightly pinch the pointed end of a petal with the aid of a needle tool.



Arrange 5 petals on a circle to create the flowers. This can be done in varying sizes depending on the cutters you use.



Roll green clay mix to a thickness of 1 mm and cut out leaf shapes either by hand or with a metal cutter.



Add leaf vein details to the leaves using a scalpel or needle tool.



Now you have three bigger flowers ready, three smaller, and a couple of leaves.



Add a small amount of liquid clay to the center of the butterfly and add the body. Smooth down to ensure no air bubbles form between the layers.

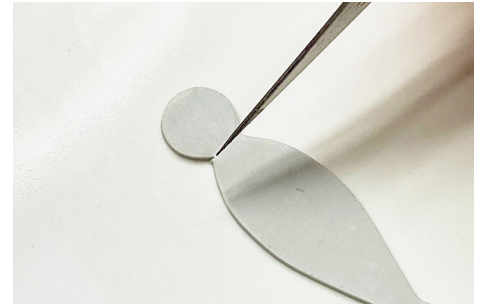
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Start arranging the flowers to the body.



Add leaves as well, and bake according to the instructions for 30 minutes.



Using a 0.5 mm thin layer of silver clay, cut out a body shape.



Using the template, remove the top and bottom as shown.



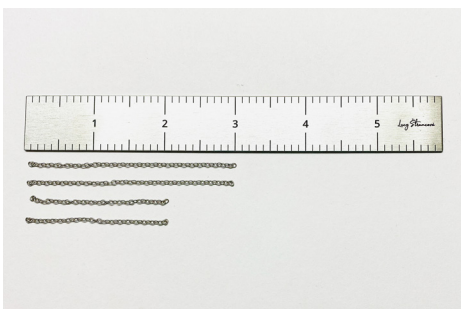
With a small amount of super glue, attach jump rings to the underside of the butterfly to keep them in place.



Using a small amount of liquid clay, place the smaller body on top of the jump rings and press around them firmly. Bake for the final time following the manufacturer's instructions for 30 minutes.



After baking, when cooled down, use varnish on the metallic parts of your butterfly to give extra shine.



Cut 4 chain sections, 2 measuring 2 inches long and 2 measuring 3 inches long.



Attach a smaller jump ring to the end of each chain. Attach sun catcher or glass beads to the bottom of both short chains and one long chain.

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Attach a large ring to the end of the second long chain as a hanger.



Attach all chains with glass beads together as shown.



Hang finished sun catchers from a large ring.



And your suncatcher is done! Explore the possibilities of this project and enjoy the play of light as it goes through the butterfly and individual glass beads.



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