

POLYMER WEEK

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MAGICAL DOORWAY MINIATURE

by Dasha Paradoks

Would you like to test your patience? Dasha's project invites you to create a festive miniature doorway filled with atmosphere and fine details. Centered around a classic red door framed by columns, greenery, and winter accents, the piece focuses on careful layering, architectural elements, texture, and small decorative details that bring the scene to life.

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TOOLS & SUPPLIES

POLYMER CLAY

- Fimo Professional: white (0), black (9), true yellow (100), true red (200), true green (500)
- FIMO liquid clay

MATERIALS

- white acrylic paint
- brown dry pastel
- cornstarch
- fine sandpaper

TOOLS

- pasta machine
- silicone tools
- rigid blade
- craft knife
- paintbrush
- needle tool
- round cutters 9 mm and 4 mm
- cutters for the door base

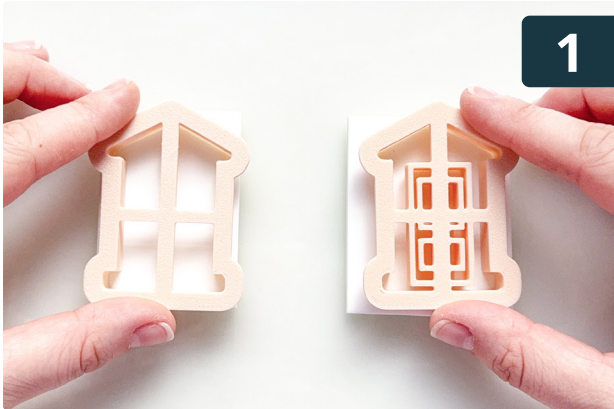
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COLOR MIXING



- Color 1: 14 red, $\frac{3}{4}$ yellow, and $\frac{1}{8}$ black
- Color 2: 5 green, $1\frac{1}{2}$ yellow, $2\frac{5}{8}$ white, and $\frac{7}{8}$ black
- Color 3: 2 yellow, 3 red, and $\frac{5}{8}$ black
- Color 4: 3 white, 1 red, and $\frac{1}{2}$ green
- Color 5: 2 white and $\frac{1}{8}$ black
- Color 6: 6 white, $\frac{3}{4}$ yellow, and $\frac{1}{4}$ red



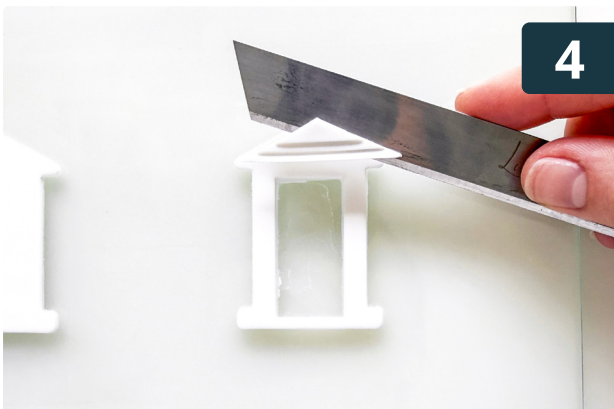
Roll out the first sheet of white clay on a pasta machine setting 5 (about 1 mm thick) and the second sheet on setting 2 (about 2 mm thick). Lightly dip the cutters in cornstarch or baby powder before cutting. The base piece (the left one) should be from the 1 mm sheet, and the second cutter is used on the 2 mm sheet.



Roll out white clay on a pasta machine setting 6-7 and layer three sheets in a "stair-step" pattern, leaving about a 2-3 mm offset each time.



Test-fit and lightly place the cutter where the roof will be, on top of the stacked sheets. Cut out a triangle. After fitting, slightly trim the edges to make the triangle just a bit smaller than the original cut.



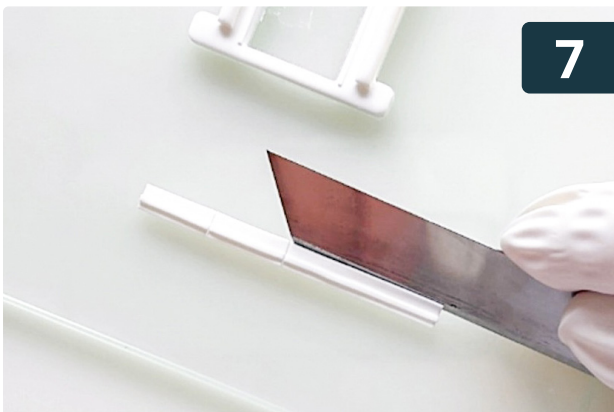
Place the prepared piece onto the top part of the base with a open center, first gently brushing the roof area with a thin layer of liquid clay.



From white clay, roll a snake about 3 mm in diameter and place it along the top and side edges as shown in the photo. Trim it so it stops about 3 mm above the bottom edge.



Roll a very thin snake and position it along the right and left sides of the inner opening.



Roll a thin sheet of white polymer clay on a pasta machine setting 7. Cut a strip 5 mm wide, and then, slightly away from one edge, place a thinner strip about 1 mm wide. Make 4 even cuts to divide the piece into sections.



Using a craft knife, attach and gently press the piece from the previous step to the top part of the future column, curving it slightly as you apply it. Trim away the excess.



9

Repeat the previous step for the bottom column parts, pressing gently with a silicone tool.



10

Crumble brown dry pastel with a craft knife.



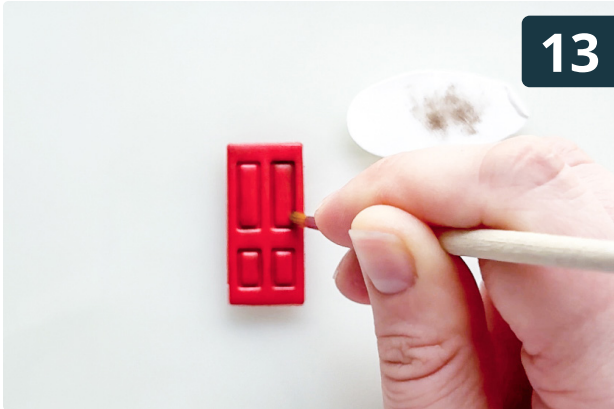
11

With a brush, lightly apply the pastel in soft strokes. To remove excess from the brush, tap it onto a scrap of clay or a dry tissue. The color should give an aged effect without being too intense.



12

Roll the mixed red clay on pasta machine setting 4 and cut out a door with a cutter.



13

Add pastel shading to the door grooves using the brush. Bake the door and the two white facade pieces at 110°C. At this stage, 15–20 minutes in a preheated oven should be sufficient.



14

Roll the green clay into a snake and shape it around the outside roof line of the door cutter. Taper the top and both ends slightly.



15

To create the texture of spruce needles, use a craft knife to make shallow diagonal cuts from top to bottom.



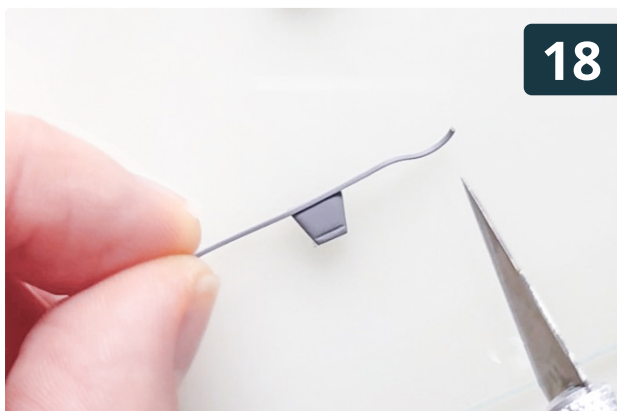
16

From green clay rolled to a thickness of 1–1.5 mm (pasta machine setting 4–5), cut out a ring-shaped piece using round cutters, and texture it around the edge with a craft knife.

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Also shape a small green triangle about 6 mm tall and texture it diagonally from top to bottom.



Roll out gray clay on a pasta machine setting 4 and cut out a trapezoid. Using a craft knife, lightly score the bottom part to indicate the planter base, and add a thin strip of gray clay around the edge for a border. Optionally, brush on a little brown dry pastel.



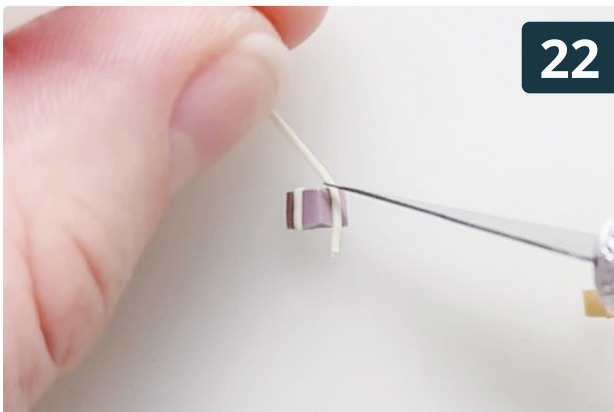
Attach the planter pot to the tree with a drop of liquid clay.



For the door hinges, roll a thin snake of gray clay, cut it into two equal pieces, and make a small cut in the center of each one.



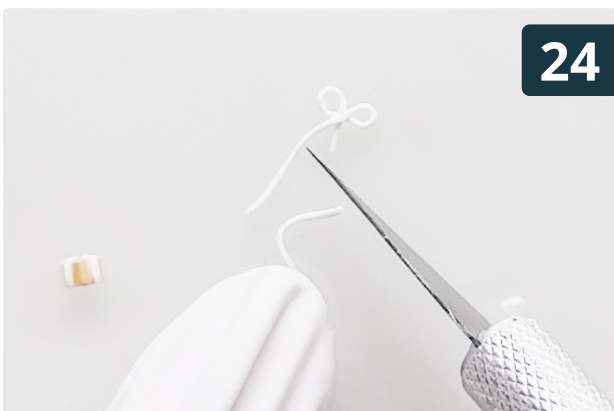
On a pasta machine setting 2 (about 3 mm thick), roll out purple and yellow clay and cut strips 3–4 mm wide. With a craft knife at a 45° angle, trim the edges on both sides so the shape resembles a triangular prism, these are the gift box bases.



Place thin strips of contrasting clay on the sides to imitate the ribbon that wraps the gift.



For the bow, roll a thin long snake of white clay. The clay should be well-conditioned, soft but not sticky. Form one loop with an overlap.



Repeat the loop symmetrically on the other side and trim off the extra tails.

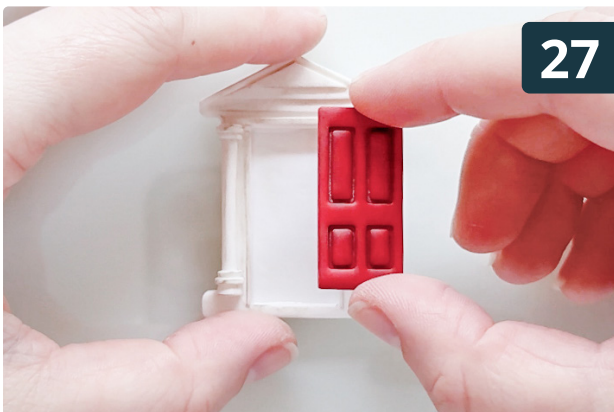
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After baking the facades and door, remove any rough edges from the pieces. You can do this with a craft knife (slicing gently at an angle) or fine sandpaper.



Apply a thin layer of liquid clay onto the solid facade piece and spread evenly over the surface.



Place the white facade piece with the hole and decorations on top, and fit the door into the center, making sure everything aligns neatly.



Apply a thin layer of liquid clay to the roof edges and the outer upper parts of the columns, then attach the green garland.

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29

From black clay, shape a small oval, then place a tiny ellipse on top for the door handle, and make a small rectangle for the letterbox area. Each small detail is glued on with liquid clay.



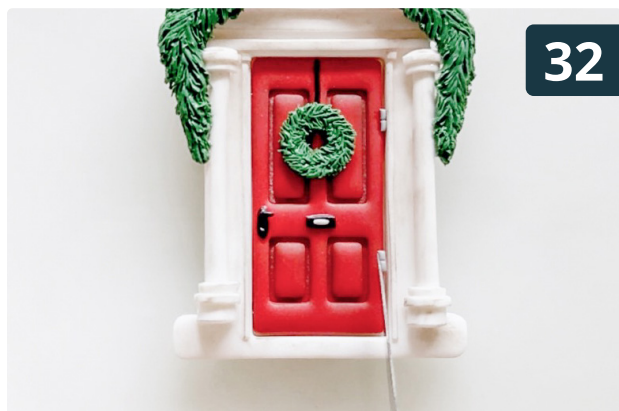
30

Add a thin black strip to the center upper part of the door, securing it with liquid clay.



31

Place the wreath in the center of the door, and attach a tiny white rectangle to the black letterbox.



32

On small drops of liquid clay applied to the sides of the door, attach the hinges.



33

To make pinecones, roll a thin snake of brown clay about 2 mm thick. Cut into six equal parts (3 mm long), roll each one, and flatten slightly into an oval. Arrange them in layers: one at the base, two above, and three on top. Taper one end and trim off the excess.



34

On small drops of liquid clay, attach the pinecones to the garland.



35

Scrape white clay with a craft knife to create small flakes or granules. Apply a thin layer of liquid clay to the bottom of the facade and press the fluffed white clay gently in place.



36

Add small crumbs of white clay to imitate snow on the garland and the wreath.



37

At the bottom of the door, stack the gifts and the tree. Attach the bow on top. Secure all elements with liquid clay.



38

Using a brush, apply white acrylic paint in light, delicate strokes to the tips of the pinecones and the tree.



39

After a final bake for 30 minutes at 110°C, you are finished! This miniature can be turned into a magnet, Christmas ornament, pin, pendant, or anything else your imagination inspires.

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FINAL PROJECT





DASHA PARADOKS

Living in the UK, Dasha Paradoks discovered polymer clay over ten years ago and was instantly captivated by its endless possibilities. Her work blends soft colors, intricate miniatures, and a cozy, book themed aesthetic. Passionate about experimentation, she refines her craft while sculpting tiny, whimsical worlds.

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