

POLYMER WEEK

advent calendar



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TREASURE IN THE TREE TRUNK

by Anna Dubinsky

Get inspired by Anna's tutorial for an unusual pendant shaped by nature, with moss, plants, and hidden treasures nestled into the cracks of a tree trunk. The project embraces an eco-friendly approach, using scrap polymer clay in any colour, even old or dried pieces, along with polymer shavings left over from drilling and polishing. Sustainability is the way.

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TOOLS & SUPPLIES

POLYMER CLAY

- scrap polymer clay (any colors)
- translucent polymer clay
- liquid polymer clay
- baked shavings and sanding scraps

MATERIALS

- black and gold color pigment
- purple alcohol ink
- lavender glass inclusions
- talc
- baking paper
- super glue

TOOLS

- pasta machine
- knitting needle
- wooden stick
- fine scissors
- rigid blade
- tweezers
- needle tool
- soft brush
- gloves
- bark or texture sheet
- cone-shaped metal cutter
- baking tile
- metal headband blank or wire
- eye pin, screw eye, jump ring, wire in the same color
- round-nose pliers
- textile cord (fabric cord, ribbon, or similar)
- clasp



Using scrap polymer clay in any colors and mixing with black color pigment. You can also experiment with other colors, as the pigments are highly intense and allow you to color scrap clay even with blue, green, or other darker shades.



Mix a small amount of pigment into the polymer clay. Work preferably with gloves and cover the table with baking paper, as the pigment is very strong and will color everything it touches.



You should now have a uniformly colored piece of polymer clay in a beautiful charcoal shade.



Make a small ball and thread it onto a knitting needle. Roll it on a hard surface, gradually enlarging the hole.

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5

Replace the needle with a wider wooden stick and form a cylinder with wide openings at each end.



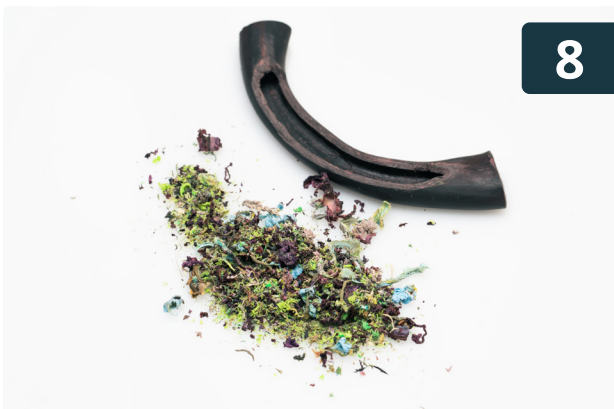
6

Shape the cylinder into a gentle convex curve. Slide it onto a metal headband blank or curved wire, flatten slightly, then bake in the oven for 30 minutes.



7

After the cylinder cools down, use fine scissors to cut out a center channel from the front part of the cylinder.



8

Prepare polymer clay leftovers and shavings from drilling and sanding your pieces in a suitable color mix.

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9

Pour liquid clay into the cut-out opening of the baked piece and start adding polymer shavings using tweezers. Make sure the shavings are partially submerged in the liquid clay so they are securely fixed after baking.



10

Roll out the remaining polymer clay to a middle setting of your machine and make or use an irregular, cone-shaped cutter to cut out the pendant base.



11

Place half of the clay sheet inside the cutter and gently shape it into a shallow curved dome.



12

Place the cutter with the curved clay onto a second clay sheet on a baking tile and cut around it. You now have a dimensional, hollow pendant.

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Using fine scissors, carefully cut out the center of the unbaked shape, making sure not to disturb the curved form.

14



Bake the shape without moving it from the tile for 20–30 minutes. This is a preliminary bake, so the exact time is not critical.

15



Prepare small pieces of translucent polymer clay (they can be old and hardened). Gather together purple alcohol ink, gold pigment, and purple glass inclusions.

16



Mix liquid clay with the purple glass inclusions inside a small container. Drip alcohol ink onto the translucent clay pieces, sprinkle with gold pigment, and roll them in the liquid clay and inclusion mixture.

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Insert an eye pin into the top opening of the pendant to create a hanging point. Fill the opening of the pendant with the colored pieces using tweezers.



Make sure all the pieces are connected to each other with enough liquid clay so they stay in place after baking.



Fill the pendant so the colored pieces reach the top of the opening. The result should resemble precious stones hidden inside the pendant.



Roll out the remaining polymer clay on the pasta machine into a thin strip. It is good if it creates irregular, slightly cracked edges.



21

Cut the strip down the center.



22

Dust the bark with talc beforehand to prevent sticking, then create texture on one side of both strips by gently pressing the clay against the tree bark.



23

Place the textured pieces with uneven edges onto the pendant. Secure them in place and shape them by hand. Cut away any excess clay.



24

Shape the pendant further with your hands, giving it a more natural look. To enhance the texture, you can lightly dust it with color pigments using a soft brush.

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Add small pieces of polymer clay shavings to the pendant to create a moss effect using liquid clay. Then bake for 30 minutes at 120–130 °C, depending on the clay brand you are working with. Twist the pin to create a loop



26

Center and screw an eye hook into the baked cylinder element.



27

Connect both parts using a jump ring. If needed, add more moss shavings to selected areas using super glue.



28

Allow the piece to dry completely. Thread the textile cord of your choice through the baked cylinder element and attach the clasp to one end of the cord.



29

To make the assembly more interesting, you can also wrap the cord around the connection point between the two clay shapes. Secure it by tying a knot or gluing the cord together on the back side. Finish attaching the clasp.

FINAL PROJECT





ANNA DUBINSKY

Anna has lived in Israel since 2000 and is a medical doctor by training. Over twelve years ago, she shifted her career and fully devoted herself to art. After discovering polymer clay, she couldn't stop working with it. Today, she creates distinctive jewelry pieces, offers private lessons in jewelry design, and teaches a polymer clay sculpting course at the College of Arts in Tel Aviv.

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