

# POLYMER WEEK

advent calendar



1

## FESTIVE ORNAMENT

by Phyllis Cahill

"I designed this Christmas tree ornament inspired by Scandinavian rosemaling and quilting," says Phyllis Cahill, welcoming you into the first day of the Advent Calendar projects. It's a lovely and simple start, using a liquid clay technique that can be applied in many different ways and variations.

# POLYMER WEEK

## advent calendar

### TOOLS & SUPPLIES

#### POLYMER CLAY

- Cernit Number One – Sahara, Olive, Light Green, Raspberry, Wine Red
- Sculpey black liquid clay

#### MATERIALS

- printed paper pattern
- chiffon fabric
- cellophane or copier paper
- scrap matboard or cereal-box cardboard
- cord or ribbon
- rubbing alcohol

#### TOOLS

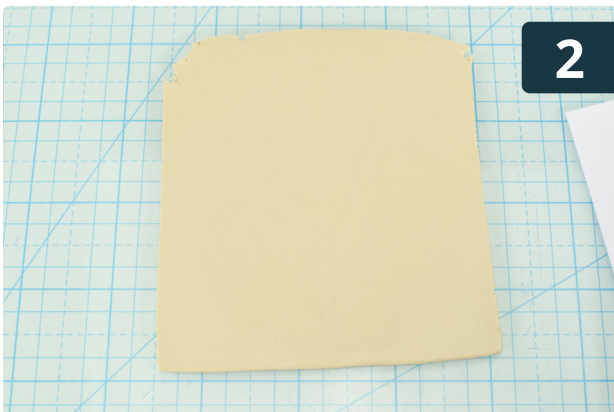
- tissue blade
- Xacto blade
- cardstock
- ceramic tile
- glass work surface (optional)
- pin or needle tool
- ball stylus tools in various sizes
- foam applicator
- espresso tamper or burnishing tool
- 4 mm round micro cutter



You'll need very small quantities of these colors of clay.

Three of the colors are Raspberry, Wine Red and Olive right from the package.

Mix the medium pink by combining Raspberry and Wine Red. Mix the lighter green by adding a little Olive to Light Green.



Make a slab of Sahara clay about 2 mm thick and slightly larger than the supplied drawing.



Place the printed drawing on a piece of scrap matboard or cereal-box cardboard.

Using a pin or needle tool, poke holes through all the lines about 2 mm apart. This will become your pattern.

If you do not have a needle tool, make your own simply by forming a polymer clay handle around a pin or needle and baking it.



Burnish the pattern onto the Sahara clay with your fingers.

This will leave many tiny indentations showing the outline of the ornament and where the colors and dots will be placed.

# POLYMER WEEK



5

Roll the remaining colors of clay to about 0.5 mm thick.

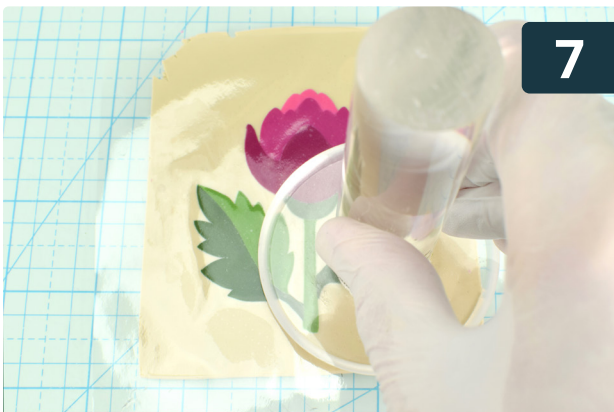
Press the pattern into the appropriate colored clay and cut out the shapes you need with an Xacto blade.



6

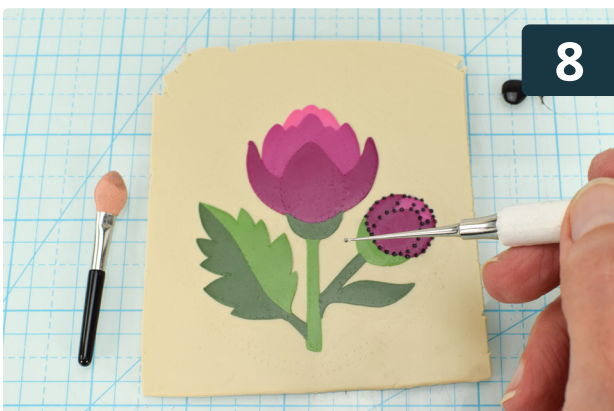
Using a tissue blade, place the pieces of colored clay in position. They can overlap slightly or leave small gaps.

If your clay is too soft and sticky, leach it so the cutouts retain their shape and peel easily off the background clay.



7

When all the colored pieces are in place, lay a piece of cellophane or copier paper over them and burnish with an espresso tamper or a similar tool until the edges flatten into the background and any gaps are filled.



8

With a very small ball stylus tool, make indentations along all the lines except for the hole on top and the outside edges.

If you can't see all the dotted lines, burnish your pattern again. Dip the ball stylus tool into black liquid clay and fill in the indentations one by one.

Clean up any excess with a foam applicator and rubbing alcohol.



# POLYMER WEEK



9

Cut out the ornament with an Xacto knife.

Cut the hole on top using a 4 mm round micro cutter.



10

Allow the liquid clay to set for a few hours or overnight until it is no longer wet and shiny, otherwise it will smear.

Place a piece of fabric over the clay and press to leave an overall texture.

Chiffon works well because it has a fine texture, is stretchy, and you can see through it.



11

Use a larger ball stylus tool to round over all outside edges and the inside of the hole.



12

Lift the ornament from the glass surface using a tissue blade.

Transfer it onto cardstock placed on a tile, and bake.

Add a string or ribbon through the hole, and your ornament is finished!

# POLYMER WEEK

advent calendar

TEMPLATE





## PHYLLIS CAHILL

Phyllis lives in Colorado, USA, and has been working with polymer clay since 2015. Before discovering the medium, she spent many years as a graphic designer and children's book illustrator. Her jewelry features nature-inspired motifs combined with vintage patterns and a soft, muted color palette. Her artwork is beautifully precise, reflecting the skills she gained from her illustration and design background.

@phylliscahilldesign  
phylliscahilldesign.com