

POLYMER WEEK

advent calendar



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SANTA EARRINGS

by Yukiko Fujita

"I adore crafting detailed miniature pieces and placing them inside polymer clay frames," says Yukiko Fujita from Japan. Once she frames her creations and wears them, they suddenly feel more like art: "I feel almost like a walking gallery myself!"

This project may have quite a few steps, but taken one by one, you'll soon meet your very own Santa Claus — or two! And if you'd prefer to make a decoration, feel free to change the shape, size, or motif and create ornaments to beautifully decorate your Christmas tree.

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TOOLS & SUPPLIES

POLYMER CLAY

- Fimo Soft: cherry red, pacific blue, bright yellow, white, black (½ block)
- Fimo Professional: ochre (1 block)
- liquid polymer clay

MATERIALS

- gold glitter
- gold mica powder
- soft pastel - red or pink
- earring findings (a pair of hooks or studs)
- jump rings
- eye pins
- Fimo varnish

TOOLS

- machine
- acrylic roller
- tissue blade
- fine-tip paintbrush
- chosen texture
- coarse sandpaper
- scalpel
- clay cutters - rounded arch
- modelling tools (ball tool, needle, pointed tool..)



1

Condition all your polymer clay colors: cherry red, pacific blue, bright yellow, white, black (½ block), and ochre (1 block).



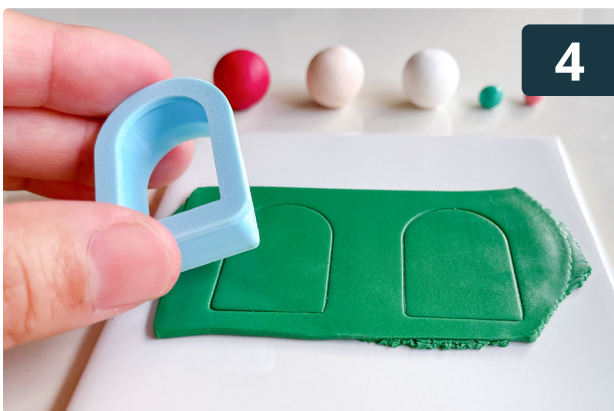
2

Following the photo, mix the colors for Santa's skin, lips, eyes (iris), outfit, and the background.



3

Roll out the background green clay, about 1.5 mm thick.



4

Lightly mark the shape with your rounded arch cutter, but don't cut through yet.



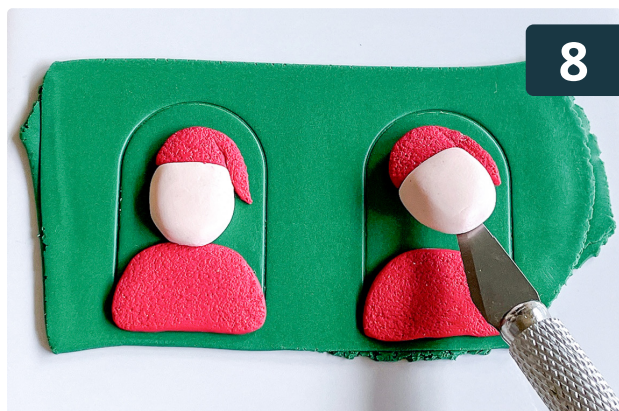
As you are creating two earrings, make sure to work with symmetrical, mirrored shapes. Shape Santa's face and ears from skin-tone clay, and the body and hat from red clay.



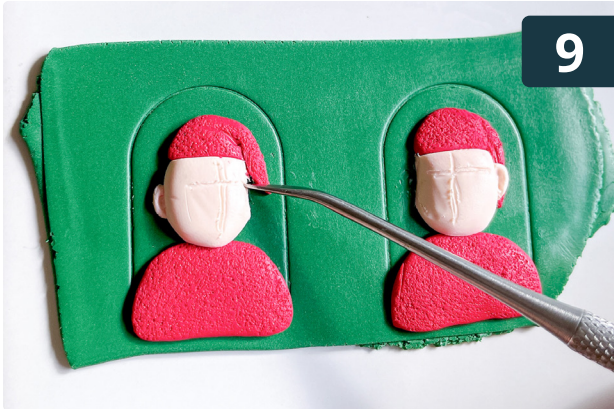
Trim the top of the head, place the hat, and shape it with your fingers or sculpting tools.



Add texture to the hat and outfit using coarse sandpaper.



Place Santa's head and body onto the arch shape within your marked outline. Refine the face shape with a blade if needed.



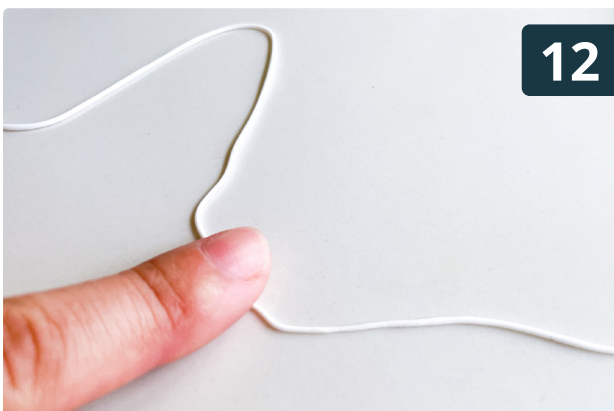
Mark the basic positions of the eyes and nose.



Add indents with a ball tool and build up facial volume using small bits of skin-tone clay.



Make the nose: attach two tiny balls beside a small tear-drop shape.



Roll white clay into a 1 mm string.

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Build up the beard, eyebrows, hat trim, pom-pom, and coat trim by layering the string.



Create a fluffy texture using a pointed tool on top of the white clay.



Add a tiny bit of white clay in the eye indent, add a tiny ball of iris color in the center, and an even smaller black pupil.



Add thin upper and lower eyelids with tiny tapered pieces of skin-tone clay.

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17

Place a small crescent of lip-colored clay for the mouth.



18

Add two curved teardrop shapes under the nose for the mustache base.



19

Roll more white clay into a thin string (approx. 1 mm), chop it into tiny pieces, round them slightly, and add them to the beard for extra volume and texture.



20

Smooth the skin and add small details like nostrils or smile lines.



21

Add a touch of color to the cheeks and nose using color pigment or soft pastel. Remove excess with Q-tips and alcohol if needed.



22

Cut out the whole piece with your cutter or a scalpel, following the marked line, and bake at 110°C for 15 minutes.



23

Roll or extrude ochre clay into an approx. 2 mm string long enough to fold in half and wrap around your cutter.



24

Fold and twist the string into one twisted strand.

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25

Apply liquid clay around the edges of the baked piece and place the twisted strand around it, cutting the ends diagonally to match. Press gently to secure.



26

Roll a 1 mm string of ochre clay, apply liquid clay between the twisted strand and the baked piece, and place the thin string around the inner side.



27

Make a 1 mm thin sheet of ochre clay and cut strips in 5 mm, 4 mm, and 2 mm widths.



28

Cut the 5 mm strip into two sections and form each into a rounded ribbon loop.



Carefully trim the inner ends to create a tidy, symmetrical bow.



Wrap the center with the 2 mm strip.



Shape the ribbon tails from the 4 mm strip by trimming a small V-cut at one end.

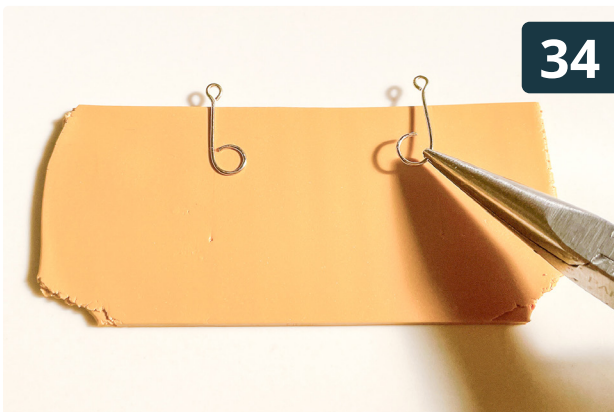


Attach the tails to the top of your arch shape, followed by the bow in the center.

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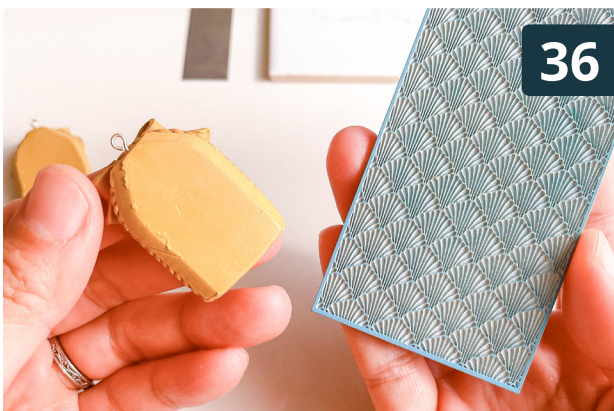
Brush gold mica powder on the frame and ribbon, then bake again at 110°C for 20 minutes.



Roll a 2 mm sheet of ochre clay, large enough for both baked pieces. Bend the straight part of the eye pins so they won't pull out. Place the eye pins on the clay with the loops facing upward.



Apply a thin layer of liquid clay to the back of the baked pieces and place them over the eye pins, perfectly centered. Trim the excess clay.



Optionally, texture the back with a texture sheet and smooth the edges.



37

Add gold mica to the back and sides as well, then bake at 110°C for 30 minutes.



38

Let the pieces cool down and apply varnish for polymer clay. You can varnish only the gold parts or the entire earrings.



39

Mix a little gold glitter into the varnish and paint the background behind Santa to add a sparkling detail.



40

Attach the earring findings, and enjoy your festive creation!

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FINAL PROJECT





YUKIKO FUJITA

Yukiko Fujita is a Japanese polymer clay artist celebrated for her miniature interpretations of iconic paintings. Though she discovered polymer clay only six years ago, her dedication and curiosity have shaped a distinct artistic voice. Working from intuition rather than strict plans, she recreates the colors and textures of masters like Van Gogh and Monet in exquisite, wearable scale. Her work reflects both the influence of Japanese culture and a gentle resistance to conformity.

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