

## WORKSHOP: "AIR DRY CLAY - TEXTURE BOWLS"



**Summary:** Participants draw designs on tube or pieces of thick dowel with a hot glue gun to create texture rollers. Rollers are rolled over flattened air dry clay both sides and then formed over the end of a tube. Feet can be added and the dry clay is painted with acrylic paints and a coat of gloss varnish.

### Materials and Equipment:

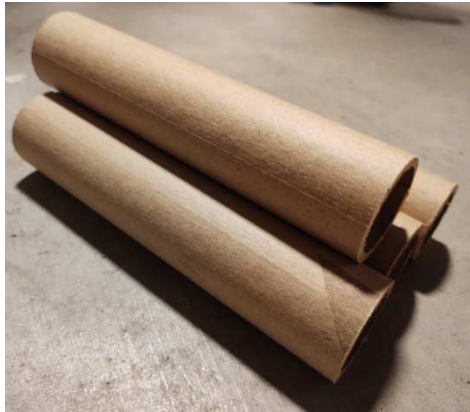
pencil, eraser, sharpener	paint brushes assorted sizes
sketch book	plastic lids for palettes
carbon paper	plastic container for water
smooth work surface (not provided)	sludge primer
masking tape	acrylic paints assorted colours
Plastisil air dry clay	scissors
textured button to press into clay	glue gun and glue
ruler	piece of string
pliers/cutters	coated gloves for working with hot glue
optional: small container for forming bowls over	cardboard for under glue gun
2 smooth cardboard tubes	optional: gloss gel medium or gloss varnish
thin wire about 10" long	

### Class Plan:

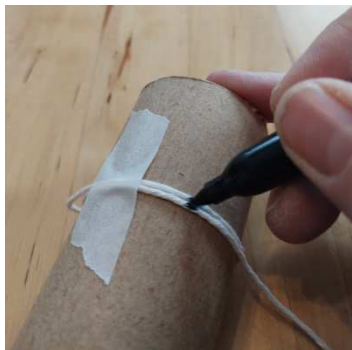
1. Two rollers were provided. One is for rolling out your clay flat. Wood, plastic or cardboard works for this.



2. The other roller is to create an embossed texture roller to decorate your bowl with impressions. You can make as many designs of these as you like if you have access to sturdy paper rolls (ideally without the spiral indent many have), pieces of wood dowel or salvaged plastic tubing.



3. Option 1 for creating a design or pattern for your texture roller.
  - a. Cut out a piece of paper the size of your roller.
  - b. Measure your roller circumference with a piece of string and marker.



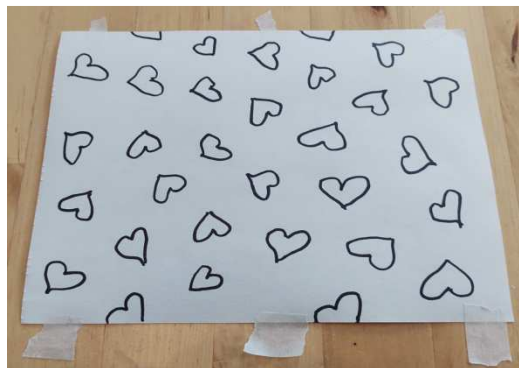
- c. Measure your roller length.



- d. Cut out a piece of paper the size of your roller.



- e. Sketch a design on your piece of paper. You do not have to fill the whole space, but consider that it is a roller so opposite edges will flow into each other.



- f. Transfer your design onto your roller using carbon paper and masking tape.



4. Option 2 for creating a design for your texture roller.
  - a. You can work free form straight onto your roller if you prefer. You can draw a design straight onto it, or simply apply hot glue in a pattern making it up as you go.



5. Apply hot glue to all the lines of your design creating an embossed design in relief (it stands out and will make an impression when rolled over your clay).
  - a. We recommend wearing gloves while using hot glue for safety.
  - b. Allow hot glue lines to cool before continuing, to avoid accidentally touching the hot part.
6. Remove the hot glue threads from your roller when all the glue is dry. This can be done by hand, sped up with the help of pliers and the sticky side of a piece of masking tape.



7. Design ideas:
  - a. An illustration of a flower.
  - b. Random lines that interconnect.
  - c. Lines arranged in short rows that alternate direction for a basket weave type pattern.
  - d. Hearts or other shapes spaced at random.
  - e. For small bowls, the whole roller design may not fit on the clay surface so covering only a small section of your roller is fine.
8. Cover your work surface with a smooth flat surface that can get dirty like a board for rolling out your clay.
9. We are using Plastisial air dry clay.



- a. Open your package and take out a blob of clay enough to make a decent sized ball in the palm of your hand. Use the thin wire to cut off a piece of clay.



- b. Seal the rest of your clay back in the package provided so that it does not dry out. Squeeze the air out of the package as you seal it.
- 10. Warm the blob of clay in your hands rolling it into a ball between your palms.
- 11. Use your non-textured roller to roll out your clay flat about 1/8" to 1/4" thick depending on how thick you want the walls of your bowl. Aim for a round shape but it does not need to be an exact circle.
  - a. Roll your circle wide enough that it is wider than the end of your smooth roller.



- 12. Roll your textured roller over your clay circle pressing down firmly enough to make an impression but not hard enough to distort the thickness of your clay.



- 13. Optional: Carefully turn over your clay circle and roll over the other side with your texture roller.
- 14. Tip your smooth roller on its end in the centre of your textured clay, and fold up the edges of your circle in



a scallop (wavy) pattern around the end of your roller.



15. If you have any cracks, smooth those areas. If there are too many you can squish your bowl back into a blob of clay and roll it out again.
16. Allow your clay to dry exposed to the air for about two days in a dry safe place not exposed to direct sunlight. Turn your bowl over and leave it another two days. Do not bake this clay.
17. Optional: Paint your bowl with acrylic paints or gouache:
  - a. Apply a coat of sludge primer to help your paint stick to your clay, and allow it to dry.



- b. Apply two coats of a base colour of acrylic paint, allowing the paint to dry between coats.



- c. Dust a lighter colour of acrylic paint over your bowl's surface to highlight the texture. Use a paint

brush without any water and a small amount of paint to catch only the raised surfaces.



18. Optional: apply a coat of gloss varnish (left) or gloss gel medium (right) to your bowl.



19. The Plastisial bowl is not food safe. Do not use it for food/water for people or pets.

20. Do not use your bowl to hold water or hot things because it will deteriorate the clay faster.

#### Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:

- Plastisial clay shrinks about 5% when drying. It is air dry clay, do not bake it.
- It contains a small percentage of cellulose which helps avoid cracking during assembly and drying, and increases its resistance to impact once dry.
- When dry it can be painted with acrylic paint.
- This is not food safe. Do not use your creation for food for people or pets.
- Try using a textured button to make impressions in your clay in patterns instead of using a textured roller.

#### Trouble Shooting:

- If you don't like part of your glue gun texture design or slip when applying it, wait for it to dry. Then use the pliers to pull that piece of the design off of your roller.
- If your unused clay gets firm over time and you want to use it, place it in a plastic bag (with no holes) and add a bit of water. There is no exact measure of water. Seal your bag and let it sit for a day.
- If you are softening your unused clay and added too much water, remove the excess water and leave the clay sitting out about 5-10 minutes. Then it should be soft but not soggy.