

CLAY BASICS

Crafting & Drying

Thickness and Clay Amount: For my paint palettes, roll the clay out to a thickness of 1 cm. An amount of 500 g is completely sufficient for this. Simply roll out the clay slightly larger than the template and trim off the excess.

Joining Clay Pieces (Clay Slip): To join clay pieces together more effectively, you can mix clay and water into a paste (slip). Score the surfaces you want to connect, apply the mixture, and press the pieces firmly together.

Drying Time: Drying depends heavily on the thickness of the object, the brand of clay, and the local climate. For this thickness, please allow approximately 4 to 5 days. While drying, the clay tends to warp. In the beginning, gently flatten it with your hands. Once the clay is drier, you can place something heavy on top of it.

Cracks and Breakages: The clay can crack or break while drying. You can easily fill cracks back up with fresh clay. If a piece should break, you can try to fix the piece with glue – this usually works very well.

Post-Processing and Priming

Sandpaper: Use sandpaper with an 80 and 120 grit. Only sand the object when the clay is completely dry. Wear a dust mask to avoid inhaling the fine clay dust.

Priming & Painting: I do not prime my objects beforehand. Instead, I paint them directly with acrylic paint. Some people prefer to use gesso or white acrylic paint first to close the pores, but you can also start right away with your colors.

Sealing & Safety (UV Resin)

UV resin creates a highly water-resistant surface ideal for temporary water use. For best durability, empty the water after a few hours and never leave it inside overnight. This prevents moisture from seeping through micro-cracks into the dry clay.

Important Safety Precautions: Make sure to work in a well-ventilated room. For your protection, always wear gloves, UV safety goggles, and a respirator mask. Liquid resin can irritate the skin, and the vapors are unhealthy.

The Right UV Lamp: The lamp should have a power output of at least 36 watts up to a maximum of 100 watts. Lamps that are too weak will not cure the resin properly (it stays sticky), while over 100 watts can heat up and warp the clay/resin too quickly. When buying, ensure the lamp covers a wavelength of 365 nm to 405 nm (dual light), as most resins require exactly this range to cure completely.

Curing Time: The exact curing time always depends on the thickness of the applied resin layer. For the best results, I cure my own objects for approx. 5 minutes on each side.

Brush Care: I use cheap brushes, so I do not clean my brushes after use. Instead, I reuse them multiple times. Simply minimize their exposure to daylight while working, and then wrap them in foil and store them in a dark box to keep them ready for next time.

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