

Pizazz With Clay

Air-dried clay is sure to expand your creativity and add dimension to your art pieces and scrap booking pages. It is a media that will allow you to design cards, scrap booking embellishments, home décor items, free form sculpting, mold making, and jewelry. It is only limited by your creativity. Let this book be the match to light your creative juices.

There are some basic tips and techniques that will lead to more satisfying results in your “claytivity.” I will be talking about 2 kinds of air-dried clay, Hearty and Lumina. Both clays dry acid-free.

Colors of clay: Hearty Clay comes in 12 colors (black, white, yellow, brown, dark green, red, blue, sky blue, purple, Christmas red, flesh, pumpkin, light green. You can take the 3 primary colors mixed with degrees of white and create any color you want. The Mountain Idea’s Color Scale gives you the correct proportions and ensures you recreating the same color every time. You can also alter the color of the clay with many topical applications. Lumina is an ivory translucent clay.

Uses of the clay: Hearty Clay is best used for paper arts. Because it dries so lightweight, it’s wonderful for card making, Scrap booking, and altered art. It can be used for jewelry making but should be rolled thicker for these projects. Free form sculpting is made easy with the clay because it is so malleable. It is great for flowers and whimsical figures. Lumina dries lightweight, translucent, and with a flexibility to it. Rolled thicker, it dries similar to the baked polymer clays and with the same hardness. Lumina clay is great for jewelry making, doll art, home décor, and garden art.

Rolling out the clay: The clay may be rolled out onto a non-stick surface (craft sheet or waxed paper) but I suggest you roll it out with The Clay Roller which allows you to get a uniform thickness and allows you to adjust the thickness of the clays to the project you’re creating. Take amount of clay out of package you’ll need and keep remaining clay in an airtight container. Roll out clay with a roller, which could be a glass, PVC tube, or a clay rolling pin. Roll across clay, lift and turn clay, and roll so you get spreading of clay both vertical and horizontal.

Impressing images into clay: Use items with texture on the clays. If you press items into the clay, lubricate the items with a release agent. It can be a pigment inkpad or clear embossing ink. You can also use olive oil or Armor All. There are many design moldable mats on the market now for you to use. Try rubber stamps, piece of lace fabric, the bottom of your tennis shoe, shelf liner, etc. Your creative juices must be rolling by now. Try using cookie cutters get your shapes.

Altering the clay: I will use several techniques with my projects so they will be covered with each project. Just know that you can use anything from acrylic paints, Primary Elements, watercolors to chalks. You can start painting on the clay before it air dries. Chalks must be used after the clay has air-dried.

Drying time: Allow clay to dry at room temperature for 24 hours. Turn project over several times. Most projects will be dry before then. The Hearty Clay will feel like leather when dry. Lumina will be flexible.

Gaining this information about the clays will enhance your successes and make it so easy for your artwork.

Hearty Clay!!!

Features & Benefits

- **Air Dry**

Never needs baking

- **Acid Free**

Great for Scrap booking

- **Non Toxic**

Great for Pre School

- **Mixable colors**

13 assorted colors

- **Versatile**

Great for jewelry, flowers, ornaments and many other crafts

Hearty Clay Tips and Techniques

You will insure success with your clay projects by following these simple tips and techniques. Remember your clay is air-dried, acid-free, non-toxic, lightweight, high definition, and pure pigmented clay.

- 1. Make sure you have a clean work surface and clean hands. Wipe off surface and tools when changing colors of clay.*
- 2. Use proper tools that are designated for clay use only. A basic clay tool kit should include a clay roller kit, clay scissors, color scale, and shaping tools.*
- 3. Select the proper thickness of clay for your project. Paper arts projects should have the 1/16" or 1/8" rails in the roller kit, jewelry should be 3/8" to 1/4", flowers should be 1/16" or thinner.*
- 4. Store clay in an airtight container.*
- 5. Don't handle clay too much even though "It feels so good." The heat from hands will dry out the clay.*
- 6. Lubricate hands with lotion before making flowers on the palm.*
- 7. When impressing images into clay, use a release agent on object. Release agents can be clear embossing ink, pigment ink, watermark inkpad, Olive oil or Armor All.*
- 8. Allow proper air-drying time. Manufacture's instructions recommend 24 hours. Your project may be dry before then. It will be dry when it feels like soft leather. Turn project over several times when drying. Do not apply heat to speed up drying.*
- 9. Water based paints may be applied as a topical application to clay prior to clay drying.*
- 10. Paint clay, remembering that recessed areas should be the darkest, high spots the lightest.*
- 11. Dry agents like chalks should be applied to dry clay.*
- 12. Use a color wheel to help you make good color choices when making custom colors of clay.*
- 13. Play with the clay. It's about having fun.*