

Heart Shaped Bird Bath using Plus Air Dry Clay

Designed by Karen Lowrey



Make an adorable bird bath to hold your rings or small keepsakes using Plus Air Dry Clay.

Materials:

Plus air dry clay in white
Wooden skewer
Small cup of water
White, red, Caribbean blue,
denim blue and orange acrylic paints
Paint brushes
Black permanent marker
Clear acrylic spray to seal

1) How to make a “pinch pot”. Cut off a piece of Plus clay a little larger than a golf ball. Roll into a ball and then, begin pressing your right thumb into one side of the clay and begin turning the ball while pinching with your fingers.



Cup the ball in the left hand and begin pinching the side of the bowl with your fingers on the right hand with your thumb in the middle. Rotate the ball and pinch and turn. This is called making a pinch pot.

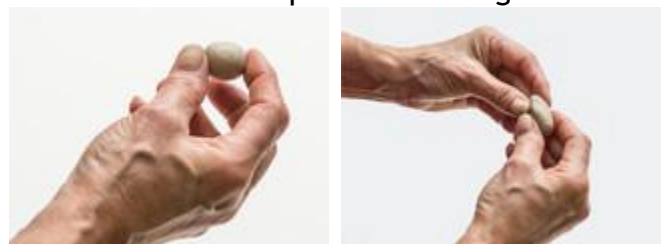
Set the bowl onto a flat surface and flatten out the bottom of the bowl with your thumbs until it is about 3/8” thick.



Continue to pinch the sides of the bowl until the side walls are also about 3/8” thick. Make sure not to get the lip of your bowl too thin. If the clay begins to crack, just dip your finger into the water and smooth the cracks out. At this point, you can shape the mouth of the bowl into the shape of a heart by pulling one side out and the pushing the opposite side in.



2) Now ready to make the bird? Pinch off a small piece of clay about the size of a grape. Roll the ball in the palm of your hands and then into a tear drop about 1” long.



2.1) Begin shaping the bird by pulling out a small head and beak on the narrow end.



Pull the other end of the body to make a tail feather. With a wooden skewer, draw on eyes, beak and tail feathers.



Optional side wings can be made by pinching off two small pieces of clay and rolling them into balls and shaping them into tear drops. With the skewer, score or make small marks on both the wings and the body of the bird where the wings will be attached.



With your finger, apply water on the scored clay and then press firmly together. Do this same technique to place the bird onto the bird bath.



First score the bottom of the bird and then the edge of the bird bath. Then apply water with a finger or brush to both scored areas and then firmly press the bird on the bird bath. Let this dry completely.



3) Paint the bird and bird bath with white acrylic paint. Let dry. Paint the bird red with an orange beak. Paint the water in the bird bath with your choice of blue. Use a black permanent marker to mark the eyes and to write your name on the bottom. Let dry.

4) Spray or brush clear acrylic paint to seal your bird and bird bath. Let dry. This piece is for decoration only. Enjoy your beautiful bird bath!!



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