

CACTUS JEWELLERY TRAY

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PROJECT SHEET



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CACTUS JEWELLERY TRAY

i INTERMEDIATE

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Crayola air dry clay or Jovi clay white
- Light sandpaper
- Red paint
- Water
- Sculpey clay tool starter set
- Medium paintbrush
- Mod Podge plaid gloss or Liquitex varnish
- Clay rolling pin
- Baking paper
- Detail paint brush
- Green paint
- White paint
- Additional paints in your choice of colours

INSTRUCTIONS

Creating the slip

Step 1 - Grab a small container and fill it $\frac{3}{4}$ full of clay. Add enough water to just cover the clay and leave for 24 hours.

Step 2 - The next day, mash the clay together to create slip. If it's too thin, add more clay. If it's too thick, add a little water.

Sculpting the design

Step 1 - Use a mat or lay out some baking paper to prevent the clay from sticking.

Step 2 - Grab a handful of clay and warm it up in your hands, kneading and moulding it into a ball.

Step 3 - Flatten the ball into a circle roughly 1cm thick using a rolling pin.

Tip: If you are looking for perfection, use chop sticks either side of the clay to maintain constant thickness with the rolling pin!

Step 4 - Use a stencil, or free-hand trace a circle shape onto the clay. Use a cutting tool to cut the circle out.

Step 5 - Roll the remaining clay into a thin snake.

Step 6 - Score the edges of the circular shape by slicing crosses into the clay.

Step 7 - Place the roll of clay on top of the scored edges and blend together with the base using the blunt end tool. From here it should start to resemble a tray!

Step 8 - Using either your fingers or the blending tool, smooth down the blended edges with some slip and mould together.

Step 9 - Clean up the remaining clay, using the slip to smooth the cracks/lumps/splits on the top and the bottom. Don't forget to smooth the holes underneath!

Creating the ring holder

Step 1 - For the cactus, warm up a piece of the clay in your hands and split it into 3 sections: 1 larger piece for the base, and 2 smaller pieces for the arms.

Step 2 - Create the desired shape of the cactus. Make the clay slightly large for the base with a pointy top and 2 bended arms.

Step 3 - Using the scoring method, make small slices onto both pieces where you want them to connect.

Step 4 - Add a dab of slip onto the scored area and attach the arms to the base.

Step 5 - Using the blending tool, mould the two pieces together. Smooth over the blended edges with slip and your fingers or a paintbrush. Repeat the process for both arms.

Step 7 - Score the base of the tray in the centre where you want to attach your shape.

Step 8 - Add a dab of slip to the scored area and attach the shape, using the blending tool to mould together. Smooth over the blended edges with slip.

Step 9 - Once you are happy with the shape, set it aside and allow it to dry for 24 hours.

Tip - Here is your chance to be creative! Follow the steps with any shape that would

be practical for holding rings - a crescent moon for example!

Painting

Step 1 - When the tray is dry it will turn white. Give it a quick sand with some fine grit sand paper to smooth the surface before painting.

Step 2 - Start by painting the tray with a white base coat, making sure to paint the bottom.

Step 3 - To paint the cactus, use a green for the base coat on the arms and the base. Let this coat dry and apply a second coat of green paint.

Step 4 - Once dry, mix the green colour with some white to create a lighter shade. Using a small detail brush, sweep the light green in pinstripes down the cactus and into the arms.

Step 5 - Add small white dots onto the light green stripes to mimic spikes. Optional: Using red paint, create small flowers in different locations on the cactus, adding a white dot in the centre to finish the flowers.

Step 6 - Add any additional details to the white tray, such as coloured dots, or fallen cactus flowers.

Sealing

Step 1 - Once the paint is dry, use a paintbrush to coat the whole tray in a gloss varnish. Leave to dry and repeat process, ensuring the underside is also varnished.

Step 2 - Coat with a second layer of varnish and leave to dry before adding your jewellery.