



Crafts by Chris

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Floral Lentil Tutorial

Supplies Needed:

- ~polymer clay in color(s) of choice for base beads
- ~polymer clay in colors of choice for flowers (you might want to pick 3 or 4 coordinating colors)
- ~polymer clay in green for leaves
- ~Translucent Liquid Sculpey or white glue (ie tacky glue)

Tools Needed:

- ~tissue blade or something sharp to cut with (ie - xacto knife)
- ~pasta machine and cutters or ruler and something sharp to cut with like a tissue blade or an xacto knife.
- ~needle tool or a toothpick
- ~small paint brush or toothpick

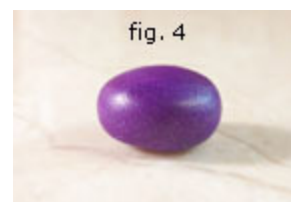
Instructions for lentil beads:

Step 1. Using conditioned clay, I generally roll my clay out into sheets (using a pasta machine), then use small cutters (like cookie cutters) to cut out pieces of clay so that the beads are the same size. (Refer to fig. 1) You can also roll the clay into a log. Then place the log next to a ruler and cut off equal size sections. (Refer to fig. 2)



Step 2. Using your hands, roll the clay into a round ball. Make as many balls as you would like to have beads.

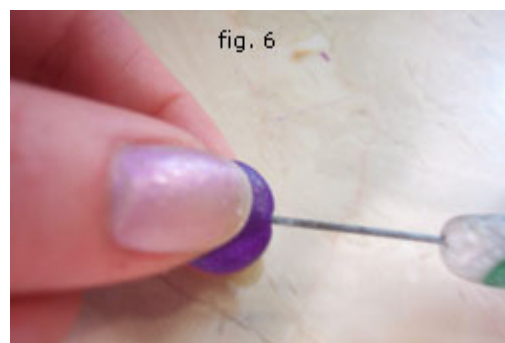
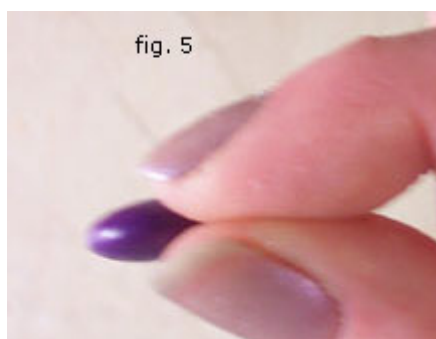
Step 3. Slightly flatten ball in the center of the palm of your hands. This will create a domed top and bottom. (Refer to fig. 3 and 4).



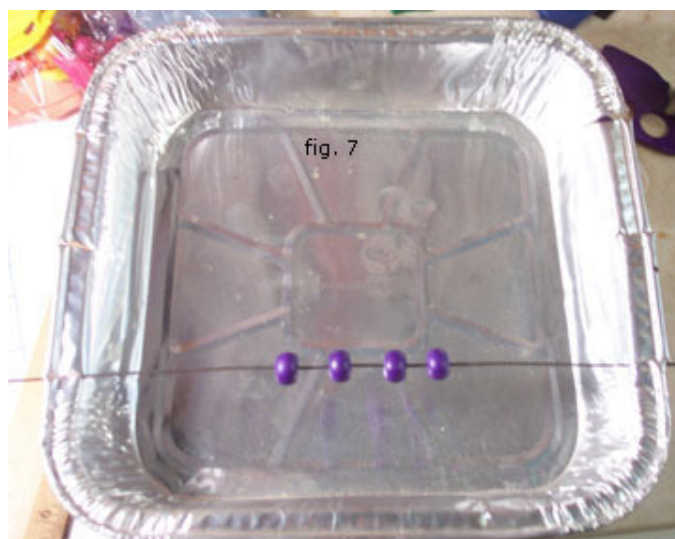
Step 4. Pinch edge lightly going around the bead. (*Refer to fig. 5*).

Step 5. The clay gets softer as you work with it. So, it's better to let the beads sit awhile before putting the holes in them.

Step 6. Using your needle tool or toothpick, pierce the bead in about half way, using a twisting motion. (*Refer to fig. 6*) Then go in on the opposite side until you meet the hole coming in from the other side.



Step 7. Put lentils on a piece of wire that sits on your baking rack (*Refer to fig. 7*) or lay them on quilt batting on a cookie sheet.



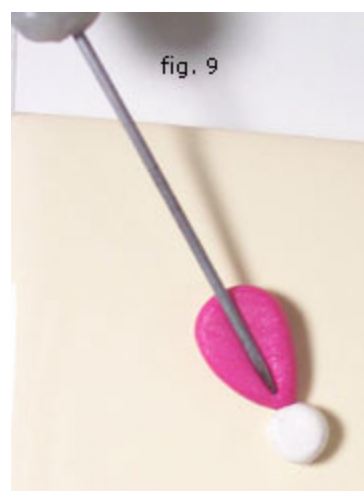
Step 8. Bake for time and temperature recommended on clay package.

Step 9. Sand and buff your beads once they have cooled. Do not put any kind of finish on the beads yet. Now you are ready to embellish your beads with flowers.

The next set of instructions are for making different flower petal shapes and are enlarged so that you can see how to do it.

Step 10. Petal shape 1. Start with a round ball and apply pressure on one side while gently rolling back and forth to make a teardrop shape. (*Refer to fig. 8*)

Step 11. Using a toothpick or small paint brush apply a tiny dot of translucent liquid sculpey (tls) or white glue to the bead where you want the center of your flower. Place the ball on the dot of tls or glue and slightly flatten with your finger or rubber tipped tool. Note: tls creates a stronger bond and is recommended. Place a couple small dots or very short thin line of tls or glue radiating out from the flower center. Place the teardrop shaped petal on the tls or glue and slightly flatten with your finger or rubber tipped tool. Repeat for each flower petal. Using a needle tool or a toothpick, press lines into flower petals. (*Refer to fig. 9*)



Step 12. Petal shape 2. Start by making a teardrop shape. Then apply pressure on the opposite side while gently rolling back and forth. (*Refer to fig. 10*)

Step 13. Then use the same process as above for applying the flower petals to your bead. (*Refer to fig. 11*)



Step 14. Petal shape 3. Roll tiny logs and apply to your bead. (Refer to fig. 12)

Step 15. Petal shape 4. Roll 3 round balls and apply to your bead. Slightly flatten and poke a hole in the center. (Refer to fig. 13)



Step 16. Roll a tiny ball and press into the center hole. (Refer to fig. 14)

Step 17. Leaves. Roll a teardrop shape and apply to your bead, slightly flatten and mark lines with your needle tool or toothpick. (Refer to fig. 15)



Step 18. When finished with the flowers on your beads, bake for 30 minutes at the recommended temp. After baking and the beads have cooled, you may need to lightly sand the flowers if there are fingerprints on them. Then glaze the beads and enjoy.



You can use these basic instructions to make endless combinations of flowers for your beads by varying the number of petals, lines or no lines, and the colors used.