



Crafts by Chris

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Floral Spacers 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

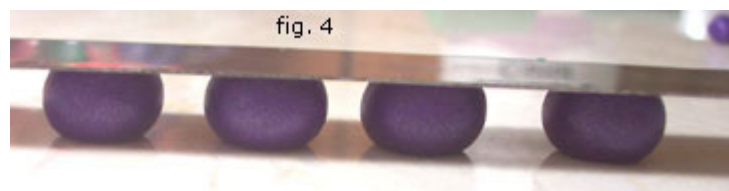
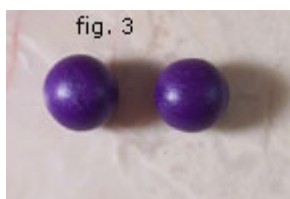
Instructions for spacer beads:

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. (Refer to fig. 3)

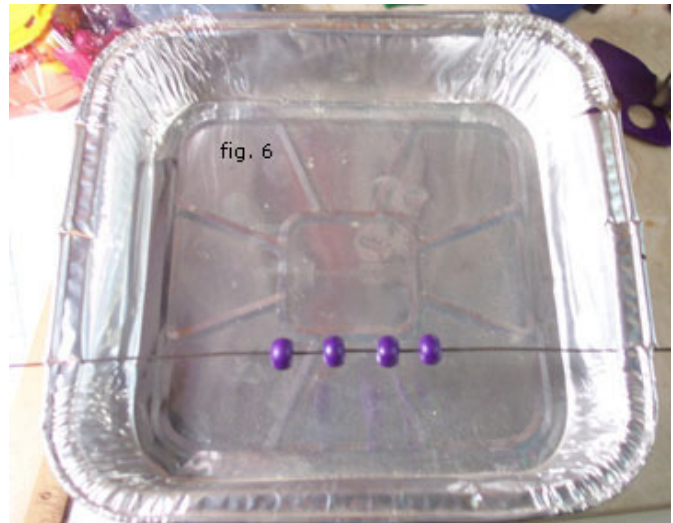
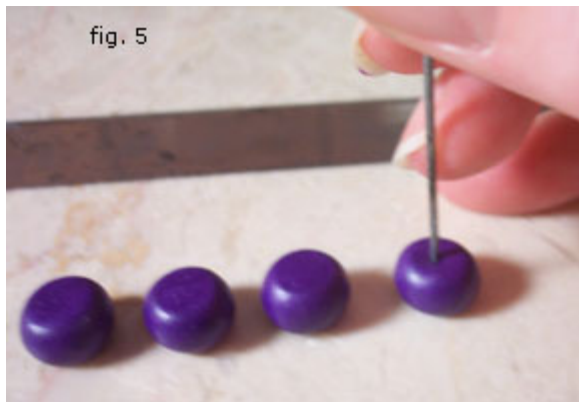
Step 3. Then using a ruler or something that is flat and sturdy, slightly flatten the beads. (Refer to fig. 4)



Step 4. 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 5. Leave the spacers sitting on your work surface as they were after you slightly flattened them. Using a needle tool, piece of wire, or toothpick, pierce the bead going straight down through the center. (Refer to fig. 5) Remove tool from hole, pick up the bead and go through the hole from the other side.

Step 6. Put spacers on a piece of wire that sits on your baking rack (Refer to fig. 6) or lay them on quilt batting on a cookie sheet.

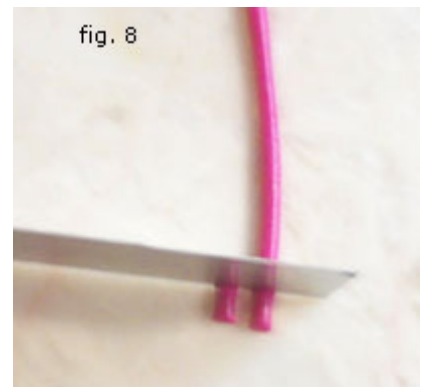
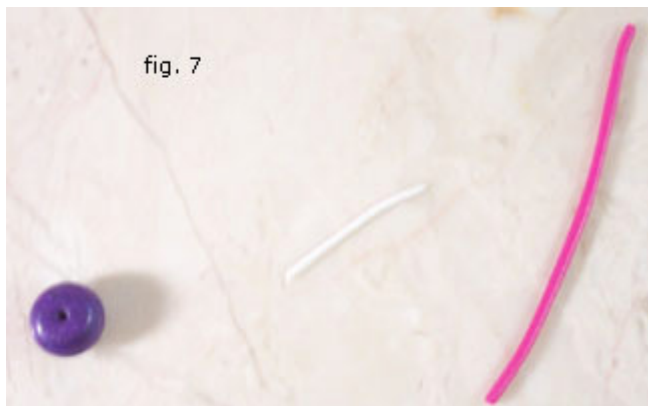


Step 7. Bake for time and temperature recommended on clay package.

Step 8. 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.

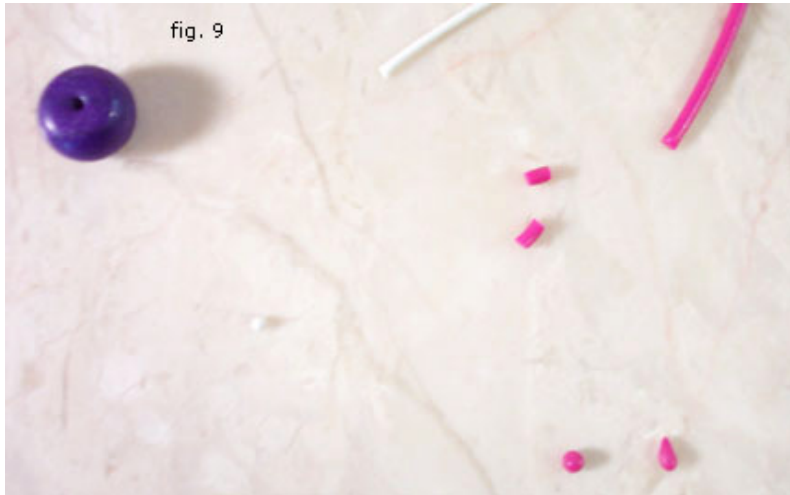
Step 9. Roll two small logs of clay, one the color for the flower center (color 1) and one the color for the flower petals (color 2). (Refer to fig. 7)

Step 10. Cut 4 equal pieces from the color 2 log (these will be the flower petals). (Refer to fig. 8) Also cut 1 smaller piece from the color 1 log (this will be the flower center).

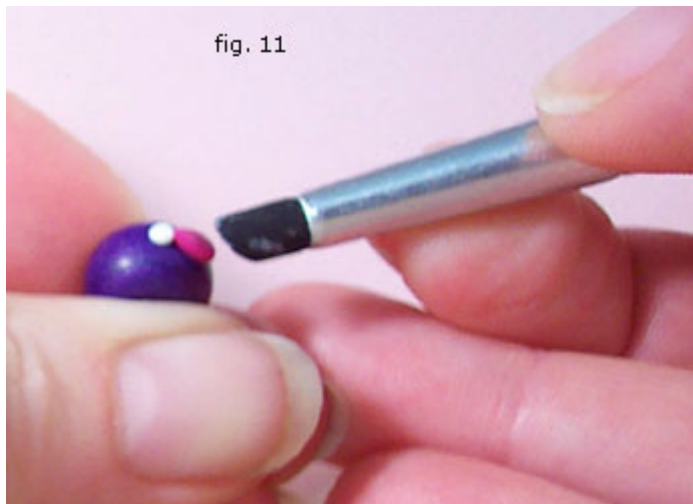


Step 11. Roll piece cut from color 1 into a tiny round ball. Roll each of the color 2 pieces into a teardrop shape by starting with a round ball and applying pressure to one side while gently rolling back and forth. (Refer to fig. 9)

Step 12. Using a toothpick or small paint brush apply a tiny dot of translucent liquid sculpey (tls) or white glue to the center of the bead. Place the color 1 ball on the dot of tls or glue and slightly flatten with your finger or rubber tipped tool (Refer to fig. 10) Note: tls creates a stronger bond and is recommended.



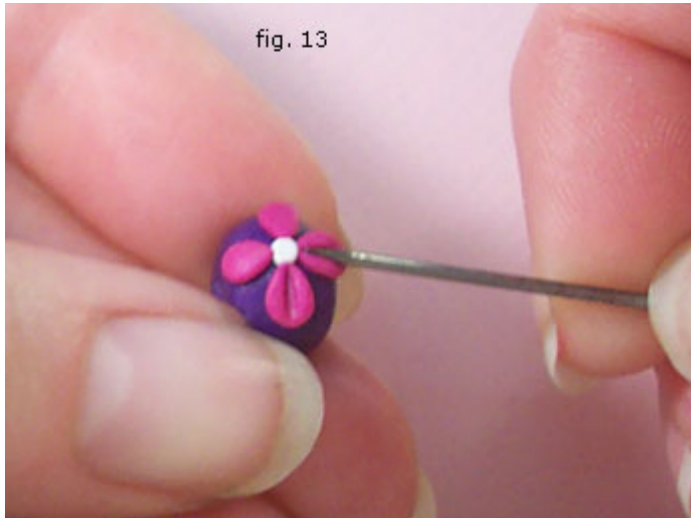
Step 13. Place a couple small dots or very short thin line of tls or glue radiating out from the flower center. (Refer to fig. 13 for petal placement) Place the teardrop shaped petal on the tls or glue and slightly flatten with your finger or rubber tipped tool. (Refer to fig. 11 & 12) Repeat for each flower petal.



Step 14. Using a needle tool or a toothpick, press lines into flower petals (*Refer to fig. 13*) .

Step 15. It is best to do one flower on each bead for a set of beads and bake for 15 minutes (30 minutes for the last baking) at the recommended temp.

Step 16. After the beads have cooled, add another flower in the same manner as the first one. Depending on the size of the bead and the size of the flowers, you should be able to put three flowers around the bead. Just remember to bake between adding each flower. (*Refer to fig. 14*).



Step 17. After baking the final set of flowers 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.