

Bonus
Project

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CRAFT

MAKE CUTE STUFF WITH POLYMER CLAY



SHELLEY KOMMERS

• LEARN TO MAKE CUTE, QUIRKY ITEMS FROM POLYMER CLAY •

JEWELLED BUTTERFLY & DRAGONFLY WALL HANGINGS

I love butterflies and dragonflies; they are like little flying treasures! This project is fun to make, and it's so wonderful to have summer beauties on the wall year-round.

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JEWELLED BUTTERFLY & DRAGONFLY WALL HANGINGS

If you are new to polymer clay, welcome! A quick note that polymer clay must be conditioned (a fancy way of saying warmed and softened) before you can work with it. Warm some clay in your hand, then roll it, smooch it, stretch it, and fold it. When you can make a soft, round ball that is free of any cracks, it's ready!

You will need:

- White polymer clay, plus any other colors you want to use
- Sequins
- Plastic jewels
- 24-gauge metal wire (or in the 20- to 26-gauge range)
- Pliers
- A toothpick
- A clay tool or short wooden skewer
- A knife
- A ruler
- Beading string, twine, or other material to hang with
- Scissors
- Parchment paper or aluminum foil
- Optional: a drinking straw

STEP 1

Decide whether you are going to make a butterfly or a dragonfly. Take a 1½-inch ball of white clay, and roll it out into a sausage shape. Divide the sausage into four equal pieces, and make four new balls. Flatten and shape each ball into a teardrop shape. For a butterfly, the teardrop shapes will be wider and rounder; for a dragonfly, the teardrop shapes will be longer and thinner. Place the wings flat on your work surface to see how they look together.

STEP 2

Wash your hands.



IF YOU ARE WORKING WITH CHILDREN, AIM TO MAKE THE WING SHAPES SLIGHTLY SMALLER AND THICKER. THE PROJECT WILL BE EASIER TO HANDLE THIS WAY.

STEP 3

Take a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch ball of clay in the color of your choice and roll out into a sausage shape. Pull off a chickpea-sized amount of clay from the sausage, and it shape into a ball (for a butterfly) or an oval (for a dragonfly). Roll the rest of the clay into a thin sausage that tapers to a point at one end. Attach the head to the body, pressing together and then smoothing the pieces together with a clay tool.



STEP 4

Move the wing pieces close so that they touch and overlap a bit, smoothing them together as you do this. Then place the body on top of the wings, pressing the body down onto the wings.



STEP 5

Very, very carefully lift your insect (it will be floppy!) and turn it over to smooth all of the pieces together on the back. Use your finger or a clay tool so that everything is joined as well as possible.



STEP 6

Pull out sequins, jewels, and more clay colors to see what appeals to you. Begin decorating the wings. Create different shapes, circles, lines, and dots with the clay. Be as simple or detailed as you like!

MAKE SURE THAT THE SEQUINS ARE PRESSED ALL THE WAY DOWN INTO THE CLAY SO THEY DON'T CURL IN THE OVEN. PLASTIC JEWELS OFTEN GET "CLOUDY" WHEN THEY'RE BAKED; IF YOU DON'T WANT THIS EFFECT, LEAVE SPACES FOR THE JEWELS AND ADD THEM WITH CRAFT GLUE OR HOT GLUE AFTER YOUR INSECT HAS COOLED.



STEP 7

Add two white eyes, and make pupils in each eye with a toothpick. If you'd like, create a smile with a clay tool or a drinking straw pressed into the clay at an angle. Cut two 1¼-inch pieces of metal wire and curl the ends with pliers; insert as antenna at the top of the head.



STEP 8

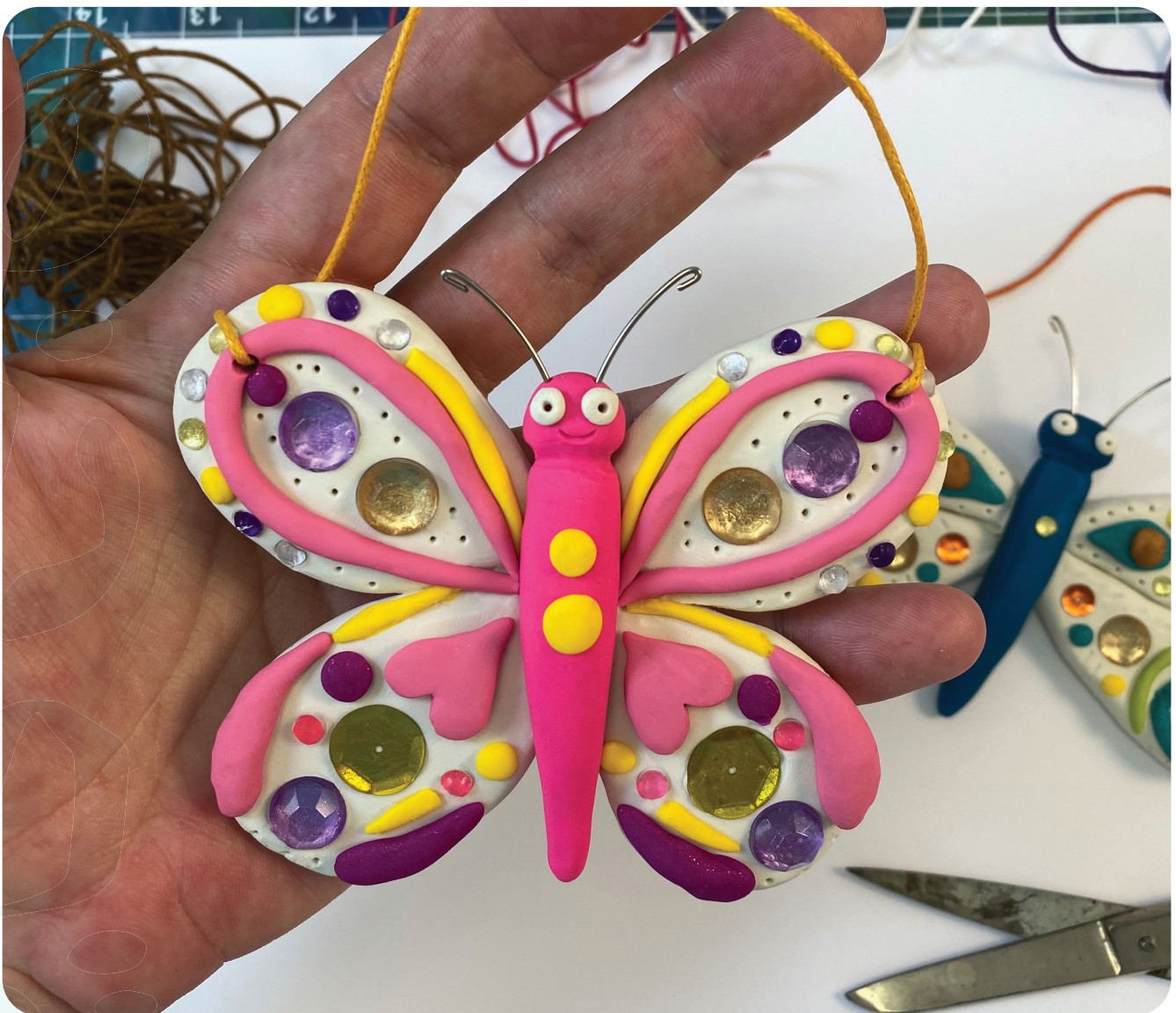
Add decorative dots and lines with your toothpick or clay tool. Create two holes for hanging your insect at the top of the wings, about ¼-inch away from the edge of the wing. Pass the toothpick all the way through the hole to make sure it's large enough for stringing.

STEP 9

Bake according to the instructions for your clay. Let cool.

Baking Tip:

Make sure there is parchment paper or aluminum foil between your project and the baking sheet. Place your project in the center of the oven, and as far away as possible from heating elements if you are using a toaster oven. (Never use a microwave oven when baking polymer clay!)



STEP 10

Cut a length of beading string or other string and attach to your winged creature, tying knots in the back so they won't show. Hang where you like, and enjoy!

