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MARAVILLA MAKER KIT INSTRUCTIONS *Calaverita Edition!*



WELCOME!

Hi everyone! Welcome to your Maravilla Maker Kit. First, my husband, Alvaro, and I just want to thank you so much for your purchase. We worked really hard on this kit and we hope that you enjoy making your earrings.

This document includes detailed instructions for you to follow to make your Calavera earrings. We have included everything you need to make up to two pairs of earrings.

We have also created a detailed how-to video that you can view by going back to the page on the shop where you found this pdf.

Please make sure to read the instructions carefully, especially when it comes time to bake your pieces. Baking is crucial to cure polymer clay and to create strong, long-lasting earrings.

You will find a FAQ/Troubleshooting page at the end of this document. Please refer to it if you have questions and feel free to send us a DM or email if we can assist further.

When you're all done, please share your creations with us on social by using the #MaravillaMaker and tagging us. We can't wait to see what you make! Have fun and let's get started!

WHAT'S IN MY KIT?

Before we get started, it is important to familiarize yourself with all of your components. Here are all of the items in your kit.



1.5 mm & 2.5 mm Spacers

These spacers were designed to help you roll out your clay to an even thickness. The larger one is the 2.5 mm spacer and the small square one is the 1.5 mm spacer. You will be using both of the sizes at different times. You will be using them with your roller.



Skull Stamp and Cutter

The skull stamp and cutter were designed to work perfectly together. You will notice that the skull stamp fits within the cutter easily. You will be using these to cut out the shape of your earring.



Jump Ring Tweezers x 2

You should find tweezers in your kit. You will notice that each tweezer has a little half-circle divet on the inside. They were designed to perfectly fit your 7mm jump rings so that you can open and close your jump rings with ease.



Flower Cutter and Plunger

This tiny flower cutter comes with a little flower-shaped plunger. The plunger was included in case your clay gets stuck on the inside of the cutter, but using your cornstarch will help you avoid this issue.



Cornstarch

Consider your cornstarch your best friend when working with your clay. Adding cornstarch to the surface will allow you to mattify the clay so that it doesn't get stuck to the stamp of cutters.



Polymer Clay

You should have 5 different colors of clay: White, Granite, Green, and Red and Yellow OR Fuschia and Orange, depending on which kit you purchased.



Skewer

You will be using your small skewer to help you clean and build your earrings.



Roller

Your roller will allow you to flatten out your clay with the spacers in the kit. It can get a little sticky with the clay so please make sure to use it as the instructions suggest.



Bag of Earring Findings

You will find a small bag with your earring findings. The bag will have 4 of the 7mm jump rings and 4 ball studs OR earring hooks, and plastic earnuts depending on what you ordered.



Parchment Sheets x 2

Inside your box you will find two small sheets of parchment paper. The kit was designed to use one piece of parchment per pair of earrings. This will make it easy for you to use and to move your earrings onto a baking surface for baking.



Gummy Bears!

And last but not least, your gummy bears! These are for your to enjoy throughout the process. I will be prompting you to treat yourself throughout the instructions, or you can eat them whenever you want.

Now you are ready to get started! If you haven't done so already, open up that bag of gummy bears and treat yourself to a few! Look out for our gummy friend throughout the instructions and take it as a sign to treat yourself!



LET'S GET STARTED!

Okay, please know that these instructions will detail how to make the earrings look just like the picture on the first page. You can definitely personalize them further, and I explain a little more about that in the FAQ section. These instructions will use the material needed to make one pair of the Calavera earrings, so if you wanted to make both all at once, double the amount of clay you use. We will now start by mixing the clay to get the speckled look of the earrings. One important thing to note is that this process may take a few minutes so just keep mixing until you are happy with the look.

Mixing your White and Granite Clay

Grab half of the white and half of the granite clay. You will only need this amount to make one pair of earrings. If you wanted to make more, you can mix it all but expect the mixing process to take longer.

Before mixing them together, make it a little easier for yourself and flatten the white and granite clays by pressing it flat with your thumbs. Then place the two colors on top of each other.



Next, we will start the mixing process by folding the pieces in half. We need to shape this into a log so first, starting from the center press the folded pieces together and work your way out to avoid trapping air bubbles.



Next, press the clay together and start shaping it into a log. You can also roll it in between your palms to do this.



To make the mixing process go by faster, twist the log to swirl the colors together. Then, fold the log in half, and repeat the process. Roll into a log, twist, fold in half, and press together. Do this until you are satisfied with the look of the speckled clay and you don't have big swirls of granite. This may take some time!



When is my clay mixed?

You'll know your clay is ready when it looks like this, speckled with no uneven swirls. Before we move on, treat yo self for all that mixing you just did!



Rolling Out your Speckled Clay & Making your Calaveras

Now it is time to roll out your clay. Please grab your large, 2.5 mm spacer, a piece of your parchment paper, and your roller.

The spacer was designed to fit evenly over the parchment paper. Please place the parchment paper on your work surface, then place the spacer on top of it and place your clay towards the bottom of your piece of parchment paper, allowing room for when you roll it out.



Now you can roll out your clay. Please make sure to use the spacer and the roller as pictured. Please use light to medium pressure when doing this. If your roller is getting really stuck to your clay, you are applying too much pressure!

Place your roller in the center of your clay and roll towards you. Pick up your roller, place it in the center of the clay, and roll it away from you. You will need to repeat this until your roller is gliding over your spacer smoothly, which means the clay is not evenly flat.

You want to make sure that the piece of clay is wide enough to cut out to skulls. You can check this by placing the cutter over the clay to see if you will be able to fit 2. If you can't you can always do one at a time and repeat the roll out process for the second skull.



Place your roller and spacer aside and now we have to prep your clay before using your stamp or cutter. Grab your cornstarch and place a bit on your finger. In a circular motion rub it onto the surface of your clay until it is matte. Repeat this until the surface is matte. Once you're done, dust off the work area gently to get rid of excess cornstarch.



Now grab your skull stamp and cutter. Place the stamp into the clay with medium pressure, making sure that the edge of the stamp fits within the piece of clay with a little bit of space. You can also gently rock the stamp back and forth, while it's still in the clay, to make sure you stamped all of the details in the clay. Leave the stamp in the clay.



Next, place the cutter over the stamp and firmly press down to cut the clay. You can shift your fingers onto different parts of the cutter to make sure you have cut the clay evenly.

Then, hold down the cutter, and pull the stamp out first! It should come out easily. After that, you can wiggle out the cutter and you should have your skull. Repeat the process for the second skull.



You should now have two skulls stamped and cut out. Please remove the excess clay by grabbing a corner and peeling it away. You will now need your skewer to clean the edges of your skulls. Gently place the tip against the edges of your skulls and glide your skewer along the edge to grab any extra clay. Every time you do this, pinch the excess clay that gets stuck to your skewer to clean off your tool before using it again. Grab some gummies too!



Adding the Flower Crown to your Calavera

Once your skulls are all cleaned up, grab half of your Yellow (or Orange) clay. Flatten it out and place it on the empty part of your parchment paper inside of the small 1.5 mm square spacer. Then, using the same rolling technique as before, place your roller in the center of the clay and roll towards you. Pick it up and place it in the center again and roll it away from you. Do this until your roller glides over the spacer and the piece of clay is flat.



Next, remove your spacer out of the way and mattify your clay by rubbing cornstarch on the surface as we did before with the white clay. To cut out the flowers, it is crucial to use your cornstarch so, dip the flower cutter into your cornstarch, tap off the excess and then press the cutter onto the clay to cut out your flowers. Your cutter should not get stuck to the clay with this technique. Dip the cutter into the cornstarch, tap off the excess, and cut. Repeat this until you have three flowers, you only need two but the third is for backup.



If the stamped-out flower does get stuck inside the flower cutter, grab the small plunger that came with your kit. Dip the plunger into the cornstarch and then place it into the cutter and push the flower out gently. This should make it come out quite easily.



Before placing the flowers on the skull, you will need to clean the edges of the flower using your skewer tool. To lift the delicate flowers off the parchment, place your skewer tool flat against your parchment paper and gently slide it under the clay flowers. Wiggle gently to lift them off. Smooth out the edges of your little flower with your skewer tool by gently patting the edges of the flower with the tip of the skewer.



Now, it is time to place your flower on the crown. We will start by placing it in the center.

Using your skewer, gently press the flower onto the tip and lower it onto your skull. Please make sure that one of the petals is oriented in the center of the skull. This will be crucial for the rest of the application of the flowers. You can move the flower around until you are satisfied and once you have it in the right spot.



Once you are happy with the placement, give the flower a couple of light taps and then add the center detail of the flowers by using the flat end of your skewer tool, placing it in the middle of the flower and lightly pressing down. The second picture is for reference, don't lift your piece off the parchment.



Now, repeat the same steps for the other skull. You will be ready to move on once both of your skulls have the center flower.



Now you are ready to start the Red (or Fuschia) flowers. First, get rid of the extra yellow flower and wipe the parchment paper clean. Please repeat the same process as the Yellow (or Orange) clay. Press it flat, place it on your parchment paper, using the 1.5 mm spacer roll it out until it is flat.

You will be needing 4 of the Red (or Fuschia) flowers for the rest of the crowns but cut out 5, just in case. Remember to rub cornstarch on the surface of the clay, dip the flower cutter into the cornstarch, and then cut out your pieces. Remove the excess clay and wipe off any excess cornstarch from the flowers. Go ahead and start with one flower by cleaning up the edge while it is still on the parchment. Place your skewer flat against the parchment paper and slide it under a flower to lift it off. Clean up the edges with the skewer and your finger.



To place the rest of the flowers, please note that the flower were designed to fit into each other like gears. So when you are placing the flowers on the side, make sure to rotate them so that they hug the center flower. Move them with your skewer until you are happy with the placement. Give them some light taps and add the center detail by pressing the flat end of the skewer into the center of the flower. Make sure to place all four of the flowers, two for each skull to finalize the flower detail of your skulls.

This is a cooked sample just used for reference. Do not lift your pieces off the parchment!



Once you have your flower crowns on your skulls, it is time to add the leaf detail! Start by cleaning up your parchment paper and getting rid of extra flowers. Now, wash or wipe your hands! Your fingers may be stained because of the Red (or Fuschia) clay. Oh, and also grab some gummies because you're doing great!



Next, grab a very small piece of your green clay and roll it into a thin snake, about the thickness of a grain of rice or the tip of your skewer.



To make your leaves, pinch off a tiny piece of the green, about the size of a grain of rice. Then place it in between your fingers and gently roll it to make it into a rice shape. To create a pointed end, roll only one end of the tiny piece of clay to make it thinner.



Now, gently poke the tiny piece of clay with the tip of your skewer until it sticks. Place the first piece on the edge of the crown. To create more of a leaf shape, use the tip of your skewer to press the wider end of the leaf into the clay and then pull out (while lifting as well) the skewer away from the clay.



Repeat this process for all of the leaves and you can always add more leaves if you'd like!



You are almost done! Once you have finished adding the details to your flower crown, we need to add the hole to each earring to fit the jump ring. Using the pointy end of your skewer, poke the skewer down into the center of the top, center flower petal until you feel your work surface. Gently and slowly roll the skewer back and forth and then create tiny, very tiny, circular motions onto the parchment to push out the clay. Make sure your hole is wide enough, you should feel your skewer come out easily and it is always better for it to be a bit bigger so that if it closes a bit during baking, which can happen, the jump ring will still fit. You should be able to clearly see the parchment paper through the hole.



This is a cooked sample just used for reference. Do not lift your pieces off the parchment!

Baking your Calavera Earrings

Here are the detailed instructions for baking:

1. Preheat your oven to 250 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Place your piece of parchment paper with your earrings onto a baking sheet or surface that is safe to bake on.
3. Bake your clay for 30 minutes, keep an eye on them to avoid burning. It's a good idea to set a timer.
4. Grab some oven mitts to take your earrings out of the oven. The baking sheet will be HOT.
5. Make sure your area is well ventilated. I like to crack open a window and turn on the vent hood above my oven.
6. Pull out the baking sheet and let your earrings COOL completely before adding your jump rings.

Grab some gummies! You are almost at the finish line!



Adding your Jump Rings and Findings

Your earrings should now be cool to the touch. Please grab both of your jump ring tweezers and your bag of findings. Grab one of the jump rings with one tweezer, you will notice that the jump ring should fit in the half-circle divet that each tweezer has. Please make sure you place the opening outside of the tweezer so you can open it.



Next, grab your other tweezer and grab the other side of the jump ring. To open the jump ring, you will pull one end towards you with one tweezer and one end away from you with the other tweezers. Please be careful with how much you open the jump ring as it is possible to break and do not open the jump ring by pulling the ends apart.



Now, take the jump ring off the tweezer and carefully work the jump ring through the hole you made on the earring. Please be very careful when doing this so you don't break or crack the flower detail on the earrings. If your jump ring is not going through easily you might have to open it more. If the hole closed while baking and it's impossible to put the jump ring through, you can try to slowly pry open the hole with your skewer stick from the back of the earring by rotating it like you're sharpening a pencil.



Once you have your jump ring through, it is time to place your earring finding. If you ordered ball studs, place the ball stud on the jump ring making sure that the ball will face forward with the earring. If you ordered the hook, you will notice that the earring hook has a small jump ring attached. Place that small jump ring onto the jump ring you have just added to the earring, making sure that the earring hook's end faces back to ensure your earrings will face forward.



Now, grab the jump ring you placed on the earring using the corners of your jump ring tweezers. To close the jump ring, you will push both ends of the jump ring together until you have closed it tight. Please make sure you secure the jump ring with no gap or else the earring finding may fall out! Repeat this process for the other earring and guess what? You are done! Also finish your gummies, if you haven't done so already.



You are officially a #MaravillaMaker!

It's time to rock your earrings with pride! You made them! Please share your pictures with us by tagging us and by using the #MaravillaMaker in your posts.

We really hope you enjoyed the process and we encourage you to leave us a review on the website! We would love to know how we can improve the kits next time!

Frequently Asked Questions

My clay is really hard to mix, am I doing something wrong?

- No! Not at all. Clay does not cure unless it is baked so you might just have to work it a little longer to make it pliable. This is completely normal and part of the process.

What if I don't want the speckled look on the skulls or want to make them another color?

- You can totally leave out the granite if you don't want the speckled look and if you wanted to make the skulls a light pink, for example, you can take a tiny bit of the Fuschia (or the other colors you have) and add it to your white clay until you are happy with the look. You can customize your skulls how you'd like, just make sure you have enough of the colored clay left for the flowers.

My roller keeps sticking to the clay and/or the clay keeps sticking to my roller when rolling it out, what am I doing wrong?

- You are probably applying too much pressure with each roll. Wipe off your roller with a paper towel (and alcohol if you have some) and then back off the pressure when rolling your clay.

My flowers aren't sticking to the skulls when I am placing them on, what do I do?

- It is possible you left too much cornstarch on the skulls so wipe the surface with your finger until it feels a little tacky again. Then, place the flowers again.

The hole in the earring closed up after baking, what can I do?

- This is a tough one. It is crucial to make sure your hole is big enough before you bake your earrings and that you made it all the way through the clay. If you would like to salvage the ones you baked, carefully put the pointy end of the skewer through the back of the earring and rotate like you're sharpening a pencil. Please be careful when doing this though as it is possible to damage your earrings and DO NOT DO THIS THROUGH THE FRONT OF THE EARRINGS BECAUSE THE FLOWER DETAIL WILL BREAK. Since you have more clay and materials in your box, you can make another pair as well!

Can I add paint to my Calaveras before baking?

- Yes! You can totally paint polymer clay with acrylic paint to add more details to your Calavera before baking. Paint markers work well too! Just make sure to add those details before you bake so that the paint cures with the clay at baking time.

My earrings are facing back. Can I fix this?

- Yes, you probably just attached the earring finding backward so go ahead and open your jump ring using the corners of your tweezers, remove the earring finding and flip it. Close the jump ring back up and you should be good to go!

Have more questions? Drop us a DM on IG or send us an email at eres1maravilla@gmail.com.