

Hamburgers and Potato Chips

By Janet Smith

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Materials Needed

- Air Dry Clay
- Pastel Chalk, Golden Ochre
- Makeup Sponge
- Sandpaper (300 grit for quarter scale, lower grit for bigger scales to add more texture)
- Serving Plate in the Scale you'll be working in
- Polymer Clay for Hamburgers (I used approximately 6 parts Sculpey Hazel-nut to 2 parts Sculpey Chocolate to 1 part Sculpey Red)
- Polymer Clay for Potato Chips (I used Sculpey Sunshine with a little Premo Raw Sienna)
- Black paint for Grill marks
- Red paint for Catsup (I mix Bright Red, Rookwood Red and Studio Gloss Glaze)
- Yellow Paint for Mustard (I mix Yellow, Ochre, and Studio Gloss Glaze)
- Oven for Baking Polymer Clay
- Double Stick Removable Scrapbooking Tape
- Masking Tape
- Glue (I use Ultimate, but any glue that dries clear will work)
- Tiny Brush
- Baking Soda
- Straight Pin



Background

What's better, on a nice sunny summer day, than a picnic outside with family and friends? This projects shows you how to make hamburgers (with grill marks!) and potato chips. The photos are for quarter scale burgers, but the instructions will work for any scale.

Instructions

Hamburger Buns.

1. Take a small bit of the air dry clay. Work it a little to soften it up. Grate a little of the ochre pastel chalk on an emery board. Then add a little to the white clay. You're not trying to make the clay very dark...just trying to make it not so white. You want it to be the color of the inside of your hamburger buns...not the outside (we'll do that later).



2. Roll this into small balls to form the hamburger buns. The easiest way to judge the size is to work with the plate that you'll be serving your burgers on. They should take up about 1/3 of the plate. Place these on a piece of double stick removable scrapbooking tape, Put a little of the grated golden ochre chalk on a makeup sponge and gently press each bun to flatten it a little and add the toasty color to the outside of each bun. Let these dry thoroughly (as in overnight!)

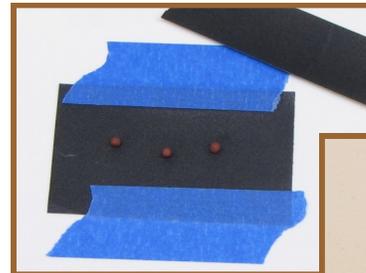


3. When your buns are VERY DRY, you can slice them in half. This works best if the buns are very dry and if you use a fresh, sharp razor blade. Hold the bun in a pair of tweezers and slice the bun with your razor blade. A slicing/sawing motion works best for me. Make sure your razor blade is straight up and down so you cut the bun in half.



Hamburgers.

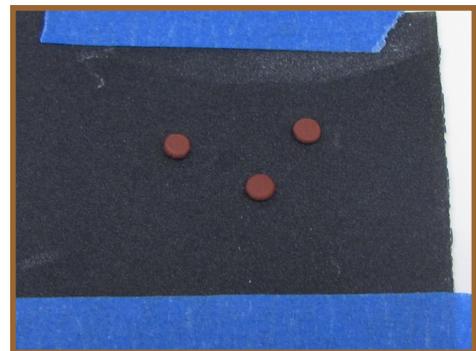
1. While your buns are drying, you can work on the burgers and chips. For the hamburgers I start by cutting two pieces of sandpaper. Tape one to your baking tile and one to the end of a pencil or pen. Roll the hamburger clay into small balls on the piece



of sandpaper taped to your work surface.



Then smash them using the sandpaper on the end of a pencil. This is an easy way to make lots of hamburgers in a short period of time. When they are smashed, they should be about the same diameter as your buns. If your clay is a little older and not



conditioned well, the edges of the balls will crack a little, which is a good thing in this case!

2. When the burgers are cooked and cooled, you can apply grill marks. For quarter scale burgers, I take a single bristle off a brush and tape it to the end of a pin. I then make a small puddle of black paint on a tile. I dip the bristle into the paint and lay it on the burger, then pull it to the side. This gives a nice thin line. For larger scale burgers, you may be able to do this with a small paint brush instead.



Assembly

1. Start by gluing the bottom half of the bun to your plate. Then glue the burger onto the bun. Add a dash of catsup and mustard to the top of the bun using a pin or small brush. Then add the top of the hamburger bun. I lean mine on the burger rather than covering the burger up...otherwise, why did you add the grill marks and catsup and mustard?

2. Add the chips to the side of the plate by putting a little glue on the plate, adding a pile of chips, letting dry, and then blowing or tapping the excess chips off. Then add a little more glue and a few more chips where there are gaps. Adding the chips in layers prevents you from having glue show through the top.

Potato Chips

1. For the potato chips, roll out very thin snakes of the potato chip clay. Use a little golden ochre chalk to darken the outside of the snakes, but don't do it very evenly. Some will be more cooked and brown than others. Bake the snakes at 250 °F for 10 minutes. You can check the instructions on your package of clay if you prefer.



2. When the snakes are cool, you will slice them VERY THINLY to make the potato chips.



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