

Be Still My Heart Napkin Holder Tutorial



Designed by Krithika Parthan
The Beaded Bazaar

Brought to you by Tiny Pandora

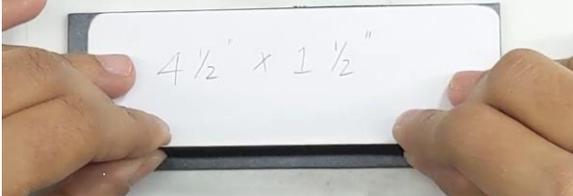
This is a really cool project that can be used to hold paper napkins or mail, or maybe even your coasters! The motif here is a trio of stacked hearts, but you can adapt this to any shape you like. It can be scaled up with a row of hearts or down to a single heart. Have you seen the other Color Me kits available? Maybe you want a marching elephant stand instead!

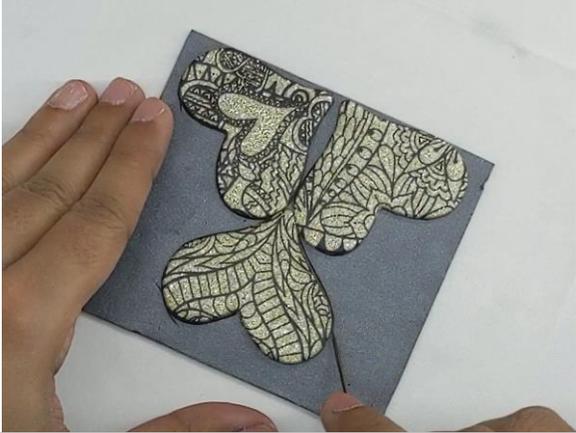
Tools and supplies

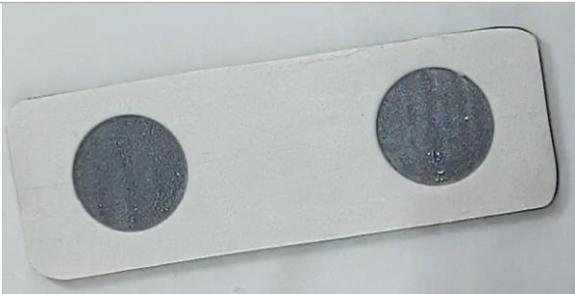
- Polymer clay in colors of your choice
I suggest at least 2 colors. You'll need about 5 oz in total.
I prefer [Premo Sculpey](#), use your professional clay of choice.
I used Yellow Gold Glitter clay for the hearts, Graphite pearl for the backing and base. I used a small amount of Pearl and 18K Gold for the base as well.
- [Color Me kit from Tiny Pandora](#)
I used the [heart shape](#) here.
- Paint for silkscreening
I used [Artists Loft Ivory Black](#). Use a color that will go well with the clay for the hearts
- Scraper of some sort to spread the paint.
You can use old credit cards, hotel access keys or a silicone brush.
- Liquid clay
I prefer [Sculpey Bake n Bond](#)
- Super glue
I like [Loctite Gel Super Glue](#)
- [Clay blade](#)
- [Exacto knife](#) or [scalpel](#)
- [Needle tool](#)
- [Pasta machine](#)
- Markers for coloring
I used [Blick Studio pens](#), [Chameleon markers](#) and [Promarkers](#)
- Metal washers from hardware store (optional)
Adds some weight and stability to the base.
- Circle cutters to match the washer and hole in the middle
- Clay roller (optional)
- Coarse texture (optional)
I used a Clay Yo texture sponge. You can use aquarium filters, coarse sandpaper or [any other texture](#) you like
- Deli paper (optional)
I like [these small wax paper sheets](#). You can use parchment paper or regular copy paper.
- Sealer or varnish of choice
I used Kato liquid clay

Instructions

<p>Step 1:</p> <p>Roll out the clay for your hearts on the second thickest setting on your pasta machine. I'm using Premo Yellow Gold Glitter.</p>	
<p>Step 2:</p> <p>Place your silkscreen shiny side down on the sheet of clay.</p> <p>Use paint in the colors of your choice and squeeze out a little bead of paint on your scraper. Pick a color that will stand out on your base clay color.</p>	
<p>Step 3:</p> <p>Holding the scraper at an angle, draw it over the silkscreen pattern. Make sure to cover the whole design. Remove as much excess paint as possible.</p>	
<p>Step 4:</p> <p>Wash your silkscreen right away and wait for the paint on the clay to dry. It should dry very quickly.</p>	

<p>Step 5:</p> <p>Carefully line up the cutter with the pattern and cut out all four hearts.</p> <p>Repeat steps 2 to 4 for two more hearts.</p>	
<p>Step 6:</p> <p>Prepare a sheet of graphite pearl clay at the third thickest setting on your pasta machine. Place the base template on the clay and cut out the shape.</p>	
<p>I like to use a tissue blade to cut straight edges and a scalpel to cut away the rounded corners.</p>	
<p>Step 7:</p> <p>Bake the hearts and base sheet. I cure all Premo creations at 275 F for an hour.</p>	

<p>Step 8:</p> <p>Coat the back of all hearts with liquid clay. Condition the rest of the Graphite Pearl clay and roll out two squares of clay. These should be about 4" by 3.5". I textured the sheets on one side with a texture sponge.</p> <p>Place the sheet texture side down on a piece of deli paper or parchment paper. Cut a clean edge at the bottom.</p>	
<p>Step 9:</p> <p>Place two hearts with the corners lined up with the base cut edge. Add the third heart where the other two meet. Press down gently.</p>	
<p>Step 10:</p> <p>Using the edge of the baked hearts as a guide, cut off the excess clay. I like to use a needle tool to trace the around the hearts first and create a groove. I follow this with a scalpel.</p>	
<p>Step 11:</p> <p>Repeat the steps 9 and 10 to create the other side.</p>	

<p>Step 12:</p> <p>The next step is to finish the base. Roll out a sheet of clay that will act as a filler, a little bigger than the base. If you are using washers, this sheet should be as close to the thickness of the washer as possible.</p> <p>Coat the baked base on one side with liquid clay. Place the sheet of rolled out clay on this side and trim the excess, similar to step 6.</p>	
<p>Step 13:</p> <p>Mark the center to act as a guide and cut out two circles of clay about the size of the washers.</p>	
<p>Step 14:</p> <p>Slide the washers into place.</p> <p>Cut out two small dots of clay to fill in the gap in the washers.</p>	
<p>Step 15:</p> <p>Use a roller to smooth the whole surface. You can also place a piece of paper and burnish the surface. Trim off any excess clay.</p>	
<p>Step 16:</p> <p>Create a final piece of textured clay to go on top of the base. I used 18K Gold clay. Place it on the pearl clay.</p>	
<p>Step 17:</p> <p>I like to place the texture sponge on top and press down to make sure all layers are fused.</p>	

<p>Step 18:</p> <p>Trim away the excess clay.</p>	
<p>Step 19:</p> <p>Using your finger or a smoothing tool, go over the layers making sure there are no gaps or nicks.</p>	
<p>Step 20:</p> <p>Bake the sides and base.</p>	
<p>Step 21:</p> <p>Coloring time*! I like using Blick Studio pens and Chameleon markers. Promarkers will also work.</p> <p>* Check the useful links page for other tutorials on decorating hearts.</p>	
<p>Step 22:</p> <p>I seal any clay surface that has been colored. Brushing over fresh ink can smear the colors, so I re-bake the colored sides for about 30 minutes to set the inks.</p>	
<p>Step 23:</p> <p>Seal the hearts. I applied Kato liquid clay* with a brush, baked it at 275 F and hit the hearts with a scrapbooking heat gun right out of the oven. Use your varnish or sealer of choice*. If you plan to use liquid clay to attach the sides to the base, make sure it's oven safe. You can also use DeepShine or resin after attaching the sides to the base.</p> <p>* See useful links at the end of the tutorial for information on sealers and varnishes.</p>	

Step 24:

The final step is to attach the sides to the base. I like to use liquid clay for this. Two-part epoxy could also work.

Apply liquid clay along the base edge. Use a ruler to find the center point of the base. Add a small dot of super glue to the middle of the side and place the side on the base flush with the edge. The glue will help hold things in place.

Place the heart cutter upside down in the middle to support the sides. You can use another oven safe support, but for the size I was working with, the cutter worked great!



Step 25:

Repeat for the other side. Use oven safe vessels such as glass jars or cans to prop the sides up.

Transfer to the oven carefully and cure. Since the base and the sides and baked already, 30 minutes should be enough.

Step 26:

All done!! Admire your stand and fill it with paper napkins or mail or anything you like!



Useful links

- [Tiny Pandora Crafting Boutique](#)
Get Color Me Kits, DeepShine and lots of fun products
- [Coloring video using Sharpies and alcohol inks from Teresa Salgado](#)
An alternative if you don't have alcohol ink markers
- [Blingy hearts video from Alison Merrit](#)
Some fun blingy ideas on how to decorate the hearts
- [The Blue Bottle Tree article](#) covering various sealers and varnishes
- [Debbie Crothers' tutorial on glazing with Kato Liquid Clay](#)
If you're looking for more information on using Kato liquid clay as a shiny top coat, this tutorial is great.

Check out my clay work at [The Beaded Bazaar!](#)

Base Templates

