



# Valentine Cthulhu

Character by H.P. Lovecraft  
Design by Emilie Gordon for Tiny Pandora



### Supplies:

Aluminum foil for armature

At least 3 colors of clay for body, heart, and eyes. I prefer Premo because it's soft to work with but durable once cured.

Alternate eyes: glass, beads, eye canes

Needle tool or toothpick

Silicone tapered tool

Small soft brush

Tiny Pandora's DeepShine Brush-On UV Finish



Divide your clay up, using 2 balls for legs, 2 for arms, 2 for wings, and 3 for tentacles. I used about half a block of clay for Cthulhu and less than 1/16<sup>th</sup> block for the heart.



Form a ball of foil for your head and a cone for the body. Roll them on your work surface to reduce sharp points. Roll a sheet of clay on your pasta machine's thickest setting and wrap your armature.





Smooth your critter's body and shape the tail. The heart adds weight to the front, so you may want to have him lean back a little for balance.



Form your smaller pieces of clay into three flattened teardrops for tentacles, two triangles for wings, two tapered noodles for arms, and two flat-bottomed legs.



Attach the tentacles to the head and smooth seams. A silicone blending tool is useful here. Curl the ends to give him personality. If you want to give him long tentacles, they can wrap around the heart later.



Press the eyes firmly into the side of the head. This is another place where having thick clay gives you some wiggle room to get the eyes to stick securely. You can prebake to hold shape better, and can add a dot of translucent clay to the back to help them bond.

You may notice her that the eyes and heart are glossy. I did have some cracking in the oven, so I recommend applying DeepShine to the finished product after curing.





Take a small ball of clay, pinching one end to a point, and shaping the opposite side into two bumps. You may find it helpful to bake the heart first so it holds its shape. You can use dots of translucent clay or Bake & Bond to help him hold the heart, or place a small piece of wire or toothpick in his tummy and spear the heart onto it.

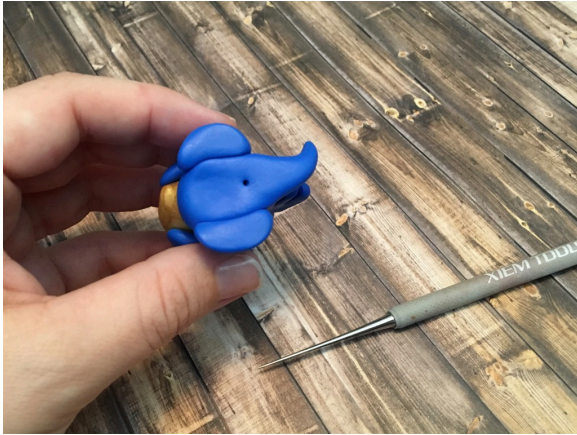


Pinch one end of the triangles that will attach to his body, and give his wings some detail with a needle tool.



Press the wings onto his back, against each other, and curved up against the back of his head. The more points of contact your details have, the sturdier he will be after curing.

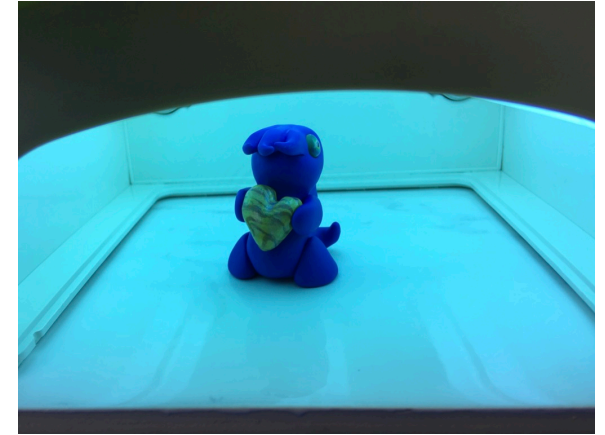




Very important step! Air expands when it's hot, so when your critter has an armature that can turn into bumps in your final product. You don't want him to have bumps, so create a vent to let that hot air escape.



Another option for support so he doesn't get sad and droop in the oven is to create a foil brace to support the heart from underneath. Only do this if you have prebaked the heart, or the foil will leave marks.



Last but not least, give his eyes and heart a coat of DeepShine to really bring him to life. This gives his eyes a twinkle and really brings depth and sparkle to mica clays like this heart. It doesn't require mixing and is great for small volume projects. For best results, use a small, soft brush like Tiny Pandora's Goldilocks Art Brushes. Apply a thin coat using slow, smooth brushstrokes, and cure for 3 minutes.

Congratulations, you've done it!