



Sleeping Cat Tutorial

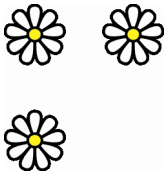


A free polymer clay tutorial

by Cara Jane

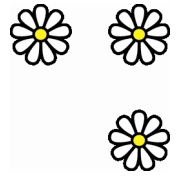


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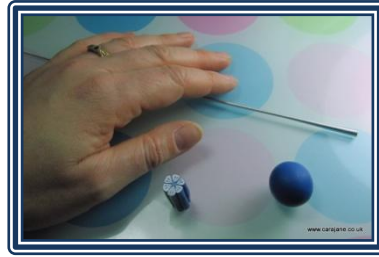
Sleeping Cat Tutorial

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You will need:

- A small amount of polymer clay
- A small cane if you wish to decorate the cat's bottom
- A tool to indent the eyes, I use the small Sculpey Etch 'n' Pearl tool but a straw or other small tube would work.
- Your hands!



1. Start with a ball of clay, the size of ball will of course determine the size of your cat.



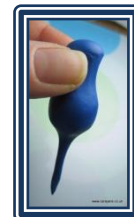
2. Roll slightly to elongate to an oval, this is the cat's body.



3. At one end of the oval pinch and turn to create a tail. Pinch gently while rotating the body so that you pull out the tail from middle. Keep going until it is a little longer than the length of the body (you can adjust it later if isn't right)



4. Holding close to the opposite end use both your forefingers and thumbs to push in towards the centre, again rotating as you pinch to keep it central, to create a neck and head.



5. If you wanted to give your cat flowery bottom now is the time to add a thin cane slice and gently smooth it down. I use my favourite double pointed knitting needle or the etch 'n' pearl tool to roll in all directions and then roll gently between my fingers to make sure the cat is still round. Perhaps skip this stage with your first few then you can just mush it back into a ball and start again if it isn't working out. It took me a few cats to get the knack of these!





6. Decide which is the top side of the cat (the side with the flower on in this case) and pinch the ridge at the top of the head flat so that it is thinner.



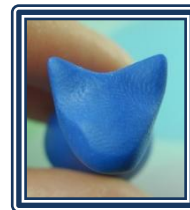
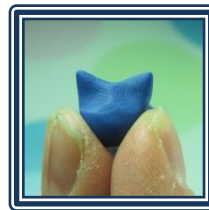
7. Now pinch each side of this flat ridge from the middle to the side to start to form the ear points.



8. Pinch gently in both directions, front to back and middle to side, repeating to gradually pinch up the ears. Stop when you are happy with their appearance. Your thumbs make little concave marks just below the ears as you do this – perfect place for eyes later!



9. Gently squeeze the chin to shape and point the chin. I like to pinch it from front to back a little so it sticks out a bit too.



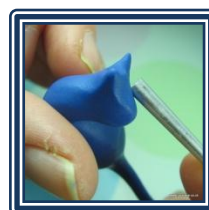
10. Push from the side of the neck, or the cheek area to bend the head round with as little distortion to its shape as possible.



11. Rotate the head angle as you please, I like to tilt mine to the side so the cheek is resting on the surface.



12. Now is the time to add the eyes, I find they can distort if I mark them before. I have found the small Etch 'n' Pearl tool perfect for making a crescent shaped mark for a sleeping eye. The tool has a round concave end and I press it in at an angle. A drinking straw would work in the same way or any other small cylinder.





13. Push from the base of the tail to bring it round towards the head. You may find the tail is too short like mine. I gently pulled and pinched the tail to make it longer. If it is too long you can either break a bit of or arrange it artistically!



14. Curl the tail as desired. I like to curl the tail over where the nose would be partly because this is often how real cats sleep when it's cold and also to hide the lack of nose and mouth! Oh and it looks cute! Put your cat on a flat surface to make sure it sits flat, you may need to press is gently to flatten the underside.



Be careful when baking, I have had a few come out with broken tails. Placing the cat in a bed of baking soda so the tail is supported whilst curing has solved this for me.

I often make them from a pile of different coloured scraps rolled in a ball. You can get a more stripy effect by rolling some different coloured scraps into a sausage and twisting it before reshaping into a ball to start a cat.



Hopefully you have made yourself a pretty cute cat! Have fun!

Please do send me a picture of your cats; I'd love to see your interpretations!

Any questions please feel free to contact me by email – carajaneuk@gmail.com , through my blog – www.carajane.co.uk or facebook - www.facebook.com/CaraJaneContemporaryJewellery