

THE MINITIME MACHINE PRESENTS

HOW TO

A SERIES OF
PROJECTS FOR
THE BEGINNING
MINIATURE MAKER

OCTOBER 2018: MINIATURE HALLOWEEN MASK



Materials and Supplies:

Polymer clay (I used Sculpey®): white, tan (or a flesh tone), black, yellow
Acrylic Paint: black, red, white
6" square of aluminum foil
Cardboard for the pattern templates
Star sequin or "gem" for headband
Regular white glue

Miscellaneous:

X-acto knife with new blade
Roller
Paint brush, size 0
Round toothpicks
Emery board or fine sandpaper

Instructions:

Basic Mask Shape

You'll use steps 1 – 6 to create the **Panther Mask** and the **Amazon Warrior Mask**. The **Sugar Skull Mask** will require steps 1 – 8. Follow the specific additional steps to complete each mask.

1. Take one 6" square of aluminum foil and scrunch it into an oval shape and then compress it. This will be used to support the mask shape while it is cooking. The oval will be about 1 ½" long.

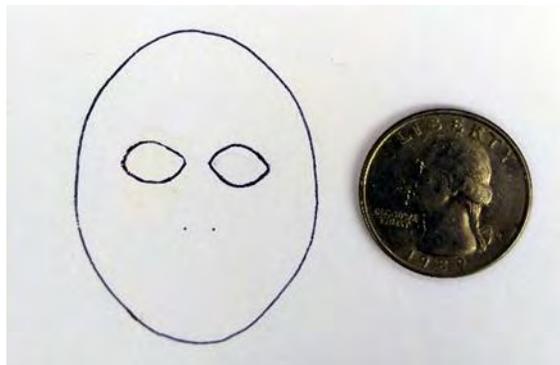


2. Cut out about a half-inch cube of clay from the main block of clay, starting with whatever mask color you choose.

3. Follow the package directions and soften the clay you are using. It is important to complete this step, otherwise the clay will crumble easily. It will take a while – I worked on the softening process while I was watching TV.

HINT: Whether you are using Sculpey®, Fimo® or some other brand of polymer clay, there are a couple of things to keep in mind: keep hands, rollers and work surfaces clean, especially when changing from one color to another. Color will transfer very easily from one surface to another (including hands).

4. Once the clay is softened, flatten it between your fingers until it's about ¼" thick and then begin rolling it out. The clay will need to be rolled to about 1/8" thick or even thinner.



5. Using the oval pattern cut the mask shape out of cardboard. Then, using an X-acto knife, cut the mask shape out of clay. Cut the eyes out very carefully. Note the two dots on the mask. Use a toothpick to make a hole in the mask and lift up very slightly to make the nose/nostrils.

6. Gently lay the mask on top of the foil shape and curve the sides down very slightly. Be careful not to press too hard as you don't want the creases from the foil to come through.

7. If you are making the **Sugar Skull mask**, now is the time to bake it in the oven following the directions on the package. I used a regular cookie sheet covered with foil. For the other two masks, there is an additional step or two before baking.

NOTE: There are toaster ovens that are made specifically for baking various clays. If you have one, please use it rather than a regular oven. If using a regular oven, the foil under it should be OK for a small project like this.

8. Once clay is baked you can use an emery board to smooth out any rough edges.

Panther Warrior Mask



Create the **Basic Mask Shape** out of black clay following steps **1 – 6**.

1. Before baking, cut two tiny triangles for the ears out of leftover scraps. Carefully attach the ears to the side and top of the mask. Bake the mask following the instructions on the package.

2. Use the white paint and the fine brush to draw the tattoos onto the face. I found it helpful to draw them out on a paper pattern before actually drawing them on the mask. You may need to use two layers of paint to get full coverage.

NOTE: A white marking pen works even better but they are hard to find. It needs to be a liquid pen not a white colored pencil used for drawing. Some sewing/quilting shops carry them.

And your miniature Panther Warrior mask is now finished and ready to hang on your dollhouse wall.

Amazon Warrior Mask



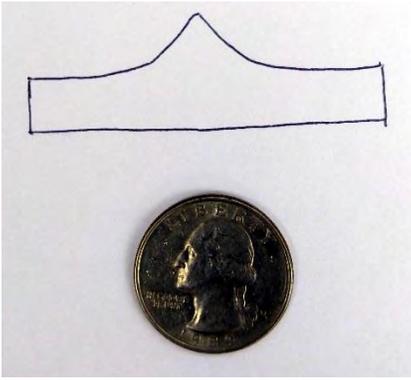
Create the **Basic Mask Shape** out of tan or flesh colored clay following steps **1 – 6**. Before baking you will need to create the hair and headband for our warrior.

1. For the hair on our Amazon, take a 1/4" cube of black clay and soften it up.

2. After it's softened, roll it into a snake. Lay it around the top and sides of the mask to insure that it will fit.

3. Once you are sure that it will fit, roll it flat. Measure it against the mask once more in case any adjustments need to be made. Curl up each side of the hair into a little flip. Set it aside to be baked.

4. For the Amazon's headband, take a 1/4" cube of yellow clay and soften it up. After it's softened, press it flat with your fingers and then roll it out to a thickness of 1/4" or thinner.



5. Cut out the headband pattern and lay it across your yellow clay. Cut out the headband shape and apply it to the mask, above the eye holes. After it has baked separately, the headband will be applied with regular white glue before the hair is attached. Trim off any excess yellow clay to make it even with the edge of the mask prior to baking.
6. Bake the mask following the instructions on the package.

7. After baking, glue the hair to the edge of the mask using regular white glue. Glue the headband directly onto the mask and then glue the gem or sequin to the center of the headband.

8. Use the red paint and fine paintbrush to paint lips under the nose/nostrils area. Also use the black to paint on eyebrows and eyelashes.

And your miniature Amazon Warrior mask is now ready to hang on the dollhouse wall.

Sugar Skull Mask



Create and bake the **Basic Mask Shape** out of pure white clay following steps **1 – 8**.

After baking, use the fine paintbrush to decorate your sugar skull. Large black ovals around the eyes are a traditional decoration. Bright red lips, with or without black lines “stitching them closed” are also very traditional. Swirls, flowers and other motifs can be added as desired.

And your miniature Sugar Skull mask is now ready to hang on the dollhouse wall.