

## Plant & Bird Decorations



**Skill level:** Beginner

**To make the pink flower decoration you will need:**

- Polymer clay
  - Pink – Approx 40g (we worked with a whole 57g pack to allow a little extra when rolling)
  - White – Approx 5g (we used 10g to allow a little extra when rolling)
  - Mustard – Pea-sized amount
- Cookie cutter shapes
  - Flower – 9cm diameter
  - Circle – 3cm diameter
- Flat ceramic tile
- Acrylic rolling pin
- Liquid clay
- Flat wooden dowel rod x 2 – 3mm thick x approx. 20cm
- Strong glue – suitable for outdoor use
- Bamboo cane – approx. 3mm x 45cm
- Protective gloves (optional)
- Use of an oven

**To make:**

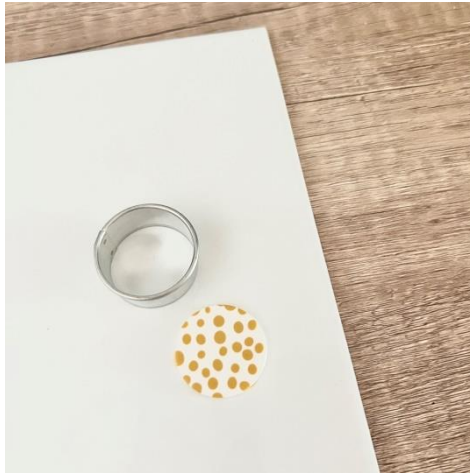
1. Ensure the working area, tile, and equipment are clean and lint free.  
Take the polymer clay and warm it up by rolling it by hand, and with the rolling pin on the tile. To check if the clay is ready to use, roll it out, pick it up and fold it in half. If the clay is ready, it will not break or crack when folded.  
Place the wooden dowels vertically on the tile approximately 10cm apart.  
When the clay is ready to use, place it on the tile in between the wooden dowels and roll out until the clay is the thickness of the dowels.



2. Leave the clay on the tile. Take the flower shaped cookie cutter and cut the shape from the clay.  
Remove the excess clay.



3. Repeat step one with the white clay.  
Take a very small piece of the mustard clay, roll into a 1mm ball. Place the ball on to the white clay.  
Create more balls of mustard clay and place them, slightly spaced out, on to the white circle.  
When you are happy with the design, roll over the clay once with rolling pin to embed the mustard balls into the white circle.  
Cut the circle shape from the clay with the cutter and remove the excess clay.



4. Add a coat of liquid clay to the back of the white circle and place in the middle of the flower.



5. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to bake the clay. The clay can be baked directly on the tile. When baked, remove from the oven and leave to cool.



6. Remove the flower from the tile, lay the flower face down and apply a line of the strong outdoor glue vertically down the centre of the flower, leaving a couple of centimetres at the top. Place the bamboo stick on top of the glue and hold in place until firmly attached.



**Polymer clay is a versatile material and it's great to experiment with different techniques, colours, and shapes.**

For the bird decoration, we used a bird shaped cutter for the main body, and then also cut the beak shape again in a small amount of mustard clay. This was then stuck to the main body with the liquid clay.

The wing was cut using the right side of the cutter and was also attached to the main body with liquid clay. To create the feathered effect, we used a cocktail stick to make indents in the clay before baking.

When baked and cooled, we added a black eye with an acrylic paint pen, we then attached the bamboo stick on the back.



For the purple flower decoration, after rolling out the purple and mustard clays, we placed a piece of grade 60 sandpaper on top of the clay and rolled over it to create the textured effect. We then cut the flower shape and circle shape with cutters and added the circle to the flower shape with the liquid clay and baked. When cool, we added the bamboo stick to the back of the flower.



### Tips and ideas

- This is a great activity for children to help with. They can roll the clay, cut the clay, and experiment with textures, colours and shapes. Children should be supervised at all times when working on this activity. Children must not use the oven or glue.
- Unique clay colours can be mixed by adding different colours of clay together and rolling until the colours have mixed.
- Use items throughout your home to create different shapes and textures.
- If you make a mistake before baking, reroll the clay and start again.
- If you don't have liquid clay, bake the pieces separately and stick them together with strong outdoor glue.
- If the edges of the clay require some smoothing after they have been baked, lightly sand the edges with a high grade sandpaper.
- The plant decorations could be used in the garden or in plant pots in your home.
- You can also use smaller cutter to create plant markers, stamping the plant/vegetable/fruit name with letter stamps on to the clay before baking.