

Diwali Tealight Holder



Skill level: Beginner

You will need:

- White air-dry clay (approximately 50g per holder)
- Acrylic paints and/or acrylic paint pens (bright colours)
- Flatback glass beads (0.5cm diameter)
- Battery operated tealight (3.5cm diameter)
- Washi tape (1.5cm or 2cm x 13cm)
- Flower shaped cookie cutter (8-9cm) Ensure the middle section is slightly bigger than the tealight
- Small bowl/round dish with a base roughly the same size as the middle area of the cookie cutter. We found that a dipping sauce sized bowl worked well for this project.
- Sandpaper – grade 100
- Superglue
- Paintbrush
- Scissors
- Clean, flat work surface

To make:

1. With the rolling pin, roll out the clay on to your flat surface until it is 0.4cm thick.



2. Using the cookie cutter, cut out two flower shapes for each tealight holder you would like to make.
For each tealight you will make one flat and one shaped flower.



3. To shape one of the flowers, take the small bowl and place it upside down. Carefully place a flower centrally over the base of the bowl and gently push the petals down, using the bowl to shape the clay.
Following the manufacturer's instructions, leave both the flat clay flower and shaped clay flower to dry.
As the clay dries, turn the flat flower from one side to the other every so often so the clay can dry on both sides.
With the shaped flower, wait until it is completely dry on the outside, and then carefully remove it from the dish, placing it on the flat/bottom side, allowing the inside to dry.



4. When the flowers are completely dry, using the sandpaper, carefully sand any edges of the flowers that need to be smoothed out.



5. Apply the bright coloured acrylic paints in a design of your choice. When the paints are dry, use the superglue to carefully add the flatback glass beads. Leave to dry.



6. To cover the tealight, take the washi tape and carefully wrap it around the circumference of the tealight, to cover the side. Trim when the tealight has been fully wrapped in tape.



7. When all of the paint and glue is dry on the tealight holder, apply super glue to the bottom side of the shaped flower. Place it centrally on top of the flat flower and hold in place until the glue has dried. Place the tealight into the tealight holder.



Tips and ideas

- Only use the tealight holder with a battery operated tealight – not a real flame.
- Ensure you wash your small bowl/s thoroughly after use.
- If small crack marks appear in the clay when drying, add a few drops of water to your fingertips and rub over the crack to remove it.
- Use bright coloured paints, beads and washi tape
- If you don't have a cutter, you could draw a flower shaped template on to a piece of card, cut it out and use this to cut the clay shapes.
- If you do not have a bowl of the correct size, you could use an alternative object to mould the clay shape, such as a suitably shaped yogurt pot.
- You may wish to apply a layer of sealant to the tealight holder.
- Instead of adding washi tape to white tealights, you may like to purchase coloured tealights.