

Materials List

Bisque Puzzler Molds
by ClayPuzzling.com
BP411 Large Gourd
BP323 Small Gourd
PPT2 Press Tool

Colors of choice
Assorted stains for drybrushing
Assorted glazes for fired method
Clear glaze of choice

Brushes by Royal & Langnickel Brush
Assorted stiff and synthetic brushes
Assorted wood sculpting tools

Moist clay of choice
Bisque plate
Drying board
Slip

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Create these fun clay shapes with the use of bisque puzzler molds and a few other tools. They can be done with more traditional feathers or leaves. For visual method on this technique, please go to www.ifiredarts.com and search for the turkey webinar with Michael Harbridge.

Step 1 Press clay into each half of the clay puzzler molds. Try to keep the thickness uniform and around a quarter of an inch thick. Overlap each piece slightly and press firmly so you can't see where the pieces meet or overlap. Go right up to the seam line and remove any clay that goes over.

Step 2 Add a coil of clay around one half of the mold right along the seam line. Wrap your fingers around the edges of the mold as you turn it over to place it on top of the other half. Your fingers will hold the clay inside the mold if it is loose.

Step 3 Wrap the Velcro strap around the mold and use the press tool to reach inside the mold and press the coil to attach the two halves. When complete, you should not see the edges of the coil.

Step 4 Remove the strap and open the mold. Remove one mold half. If the clay can stand on its own, remove from the other mold half and place on a board that can absorb moisture.



Step 5 Create a clay pinch pot the size of the head you desire. Add slip to the inside and attach to the top of the gourd. Press firmly, making certain all of the air is out. Use your fingers to shape the head and make eye indentations. Roll eyeballs and waddle, score and attach with slip

Step 6 Use wood sculpting tools to add textures to body as desired. Flatten clay for the wings on the sides, score, slip, attach and texture. (Do not add side wings if doing leaves.)

Step 7 It works best to create the tail feathers over a bisque plate. Roll out a slab of clay in a circular shape for the size of the entire feather area. Place it on the plate. For the textured feathers, you want the slab to be about a half inch thick. For the leaf tail, you want the slab to be about a quarter inch thick.

Step 8 For the textured feathers, use a wooden tool to scratch the main veins on the top side. Scratch lines going out from each feather, covering the entire side. Add slip between the parts and attach. Texture the back feathers the same as the front. You may need to prop something behind the turkey to keep the feathers from collapsing.

Step 9 For the leaf turkey, use the leaf forms or real leaves to make clay leaves. Flatten pieces of clay for each leaf to a thickness of just under a quarter inch. Don't go too thin or the clay will stick to the leaf forms. Press the leaves into the clay and cut or tear away excess clay around the edges. Turn each leaf over and use your thumb to bevel the edges.

Step 10 Attach the leaves to the tail slab starting at the top row. Score the back bottom part of each leaf along with the clay slab. Slip and attach the top row and work your way down with as many rows as you desire, overlapping each row. Score the bottom of the tail, slip and attach to the body. Texture the back side of the tail if desired. Score, slip and attach leaves for the side wings.

Step 11 If you want to make a hat, start with a pinch pot and bend out the edges and form as desired. Cut out a clay buckle and attach with slip.

Step 12 Allow all items to dry sufficiently before firing to appropriate temperature for the clay body.

Painting

The large turkey started out with a basecoat of black acrylic. The entire body was drybrushed with a dark brown followed by a red brown and medium brown. A very light coat of tan was then drybrushed to catch the main highlights. Various colors were drybrushed on the feathers. Red was drybrushed on the waddle and yellow on the beak. White was lightly drybrushed over the entire turkey, just catching the highest points. The eyes were painted and the buckle was painted with gold metallic. Seal with matte or gloss sealer.

The small leaf turkey was done with fired finishes with products like Stroke & Coat, Concepts or Fun Strokes. Dark brown was thinned with equal parts of water and applied over the entire surface. It was then wiped back with a damp sponge, revealing the highest points. Various colors were blended wet into wet (one to two coats) on the tail and wing feathers. The waddle was painted with three coats of red and beak was painted with three coats of yellow. The eyes were painted back with a small white highlight in each eye. Use a fan or Wisp brush to splatter the entire turkey with black. Let dry and apply one to two coats of clear glaze and fire to cone 06.

