

DIY Clay Decorations

INSPIRATION STATION

One of the best parts about Christmas, is all the anticipation and fun in the lead-up. So why not make some beautiful Christmas decorations, as a way to celebrate Christmas arriving soon? They are easy to make, and it's a project you can totally get the kids involved in. They will love getting their hands into the clay, and you can simplify the process with cookie cutters too.

supplies

- Air dry clay – I used the Jovi brand in white
- A smooth surface
- A knife and skewer to shape the clay – I used a pack of clay tools by Sculpey
- A rolling pin
- A small bowl of water
- Twine
- For decorating: you can use a stamp set and pens (I used Posca and sharpie pens)



step one

Take a small piece of clay and roll it into a ball in your hand. Then roll it out into a nice flat piece about 6mm thick.

TIP: You can make the decorations thicker; they will take longer to dry though. Any thinner and I'd be a bit worried they might break.



step two

Cut the clay into a festive shape, for example a simple tree, star or house shape. Then add a hole to the top.

TIP: Make the hole a bit bigger than you think, so there is room to thread through the twine doubled up.



step three

Dip your fingers in water, then smooth out the top and sides of the decoration.



step four

If you want to engrave designs on the decorations, do it now while they are still soft. Use your tools to add lines, dots and shapes. You can also use the stamp pad (with no ink) to add festive words.

step five

Leave the decorations to dry for at least 24 hours, you might need 36. Once they are dry, they will go totally white and have no bend in them.



TIP: If you're impatient you can try baking them in a warm oven – I'd do 5 minute bursts to check you don't overcook them.

step six

If you want to add colour, use the pens to draw designs and fill in blocks of colour. This part is really fun! Make sure you pump the pens and test them to get the colour flowing on a piece of paper first, so you get a nice finish on the decorations.



step seven

Lastly, feed twine through the hole to create loops to hang the decorations with.

