

Adding color to Polymer clay

Blending colored clay is a skill that both beginning and advanced sculptors can learn. Blending eliminates the need for other coloring agents (like acrylic paints), which might reduce the time to complete your sculptures. By learning the basic colors and their combinations, you can create any color or shade of color that you will need for animal sculptures.

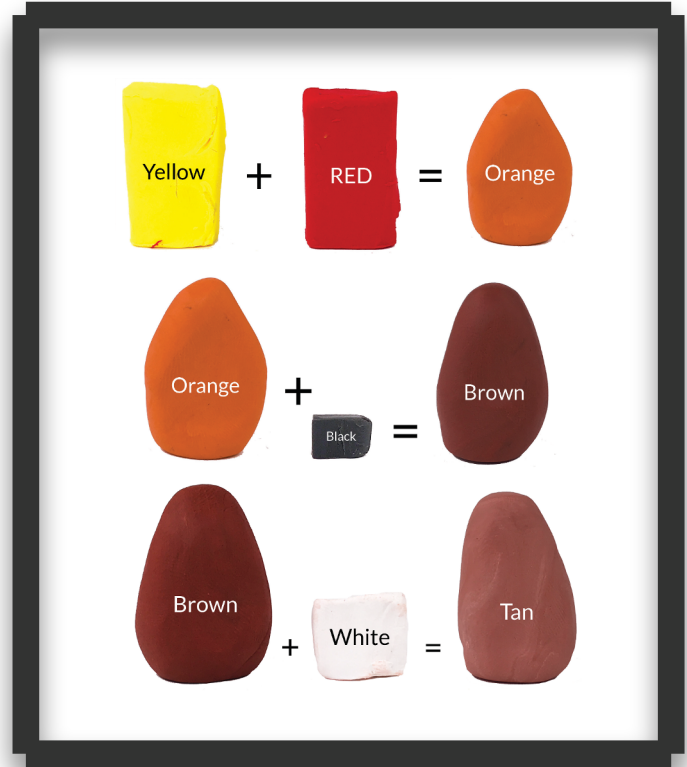
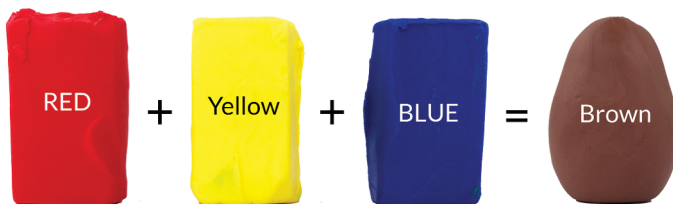
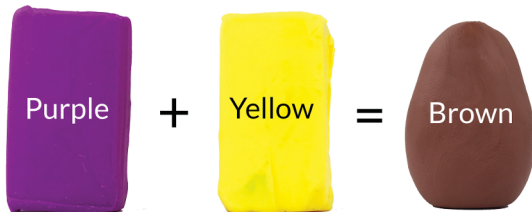
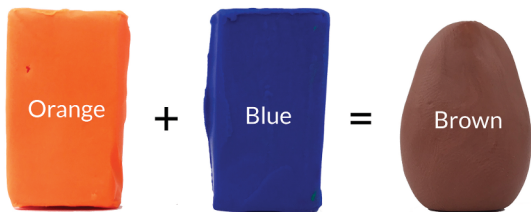


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Color Blending Guide: Shades of Brown

One of the most natural colors for animal sculptures is brown. You can combine several color varieties to create various shades of brown.



Learning how to mix and blend colored polymer clay can help you achieve a more dynamic effect on the sculptures. Always store any leftover polymer clay, as these leftovers can be used to mix clay for future projects.

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Other Ways to Add Color to Polymer Clay

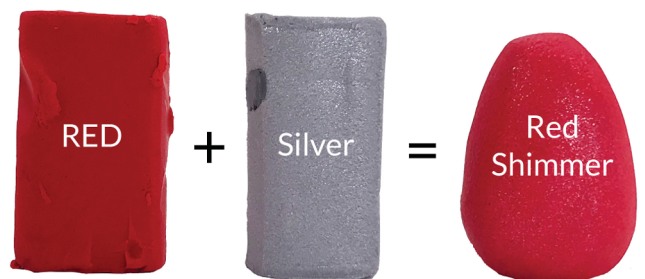


Glitters or Pigments

Powdered pigments can be evenly blended with polymer clay. You can also use crushed eye shadow. Glitter can also be mixed with clay to add shimmer or sparkle.

Metallic Blend

Some polymer clay brands offer metallic clay. These colors are perfect for creating jewelry and other accessories for your sculptures.



Layering

Layering involves stacking two or more colors of clay to create a unique sculpture design. This illustration shows a technique that creates a flowing fur texture with multiple natural shades.



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Shading

Sometimes, smearing or staining a little color from another clay is enough to create different shades on your sculptures. This technique works well to add a pinkish tint to bare skin in the animal sculpture.

Marbling

Marbling combines two or more colors of polymer clay to create uneven lines or a marbled pattern. You can create a uniformed marbling pattern by twisting the clay in one direction or an uneven marbling effect by twisting or stretching the clay from all directions. This technique is not meant to evenly blend colors.



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Painting Polymer Clay with Acrylic Paint

Polymer clay can be painted with acrylic paint after being baked and cured. You can paint your sculptures by hand or with an airbrush. For DoggoBake Animal Sculptures, we recommend hand-painting as a more cost-effectiveness, time-efficient approach.



Using a Paintbrush

Fine-tipped paintbrushes are needed to paint small parts of the sculptures, like eyeballs, individual strands of fur, and distinct lines.

Make sure to keep your paintbrushes upright or flat when not using them, to prevent bending and damaging the tips. When rinsing paintbrushes, use water and a light sweep of the fingertips.



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Artist/author Joan Cabarrus is an art entrepreneur, founder of JFCRN Limited, creator of the DoggoBake Animal Sculptures product line, a registered nurse, and The Singing Sculptor on YouTube. She has authored several animal-related sculpting book tutorials and hosts and produces The DoggoBake Show, available on YouTube beginning January 2021.

As a professional artist, Joan's mission is to cultivate creativity, resourcefulness, and compassion for animals through sculpting and art that is accessible to everyone. Her happiness as a creator lies in the practicality of applying critical thinking, problem solving, and resourcefulness to produce innovative, enjoyable art. She believes that thinking courageously and practically as an artist helps us strengthen skills that also apply to bigger tasks in our daily lives.

Visit her Website: www.JFCRN.com



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