

Using the Secrist Sculpting Form

Have the greatest success with the form when you use these secrets of sculpting!

Supplies Needed

- Medium Secrist Sculpting Form
- 1 Box Super Sculpey Clay
- Secrist Clay Shaper Tool Set
- Beaver Tail Palette Knife
- Clay Palette Knife
- Vinyl Trimming Knife
- Clay Skin Pasta Machine
- Full Round 22mm Doll Eyes
- Clay Oven Thermometer

Editor's Note: The sculpting form used in this tutorial is white. Our regular sculpting forms are flesh colored and function in the same manner as this white form. The white sculpting form is not available for sale.

Getting Your Form Ready

Locate the circular grooves inside the eye sockets of the sculpting form. Using a vinyl trimming knife cut these plugs out so that the full round eyes can be completely seated in the sockets.



Insert full round 22mm REAL Eyes Brand Doll Eyes[®] into the sculpting form. Push them gently until fully seated in the sockets. Don't push too hard or you could push them all the way inside the form.

Step 1

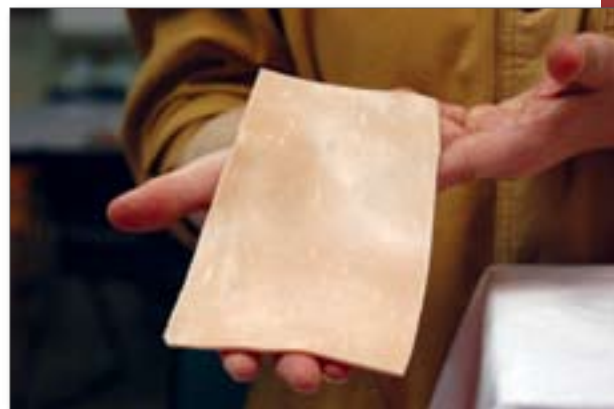
Take your block of polymer clay and cut it into thin sheets a little less than 1/2" in thickness using the clay palette knife.



Step 2

Set the Clay Pasta Machine throat opening at the widest setting. Feed each of the thick sheets of clay into the Clay Pasta Machine. Do NOT use a regular pasta machine meant for the kitchen. You can also use the Acrylic Roller for this process, however the Clay Pasta Machine creates more uniform sheets and is significantly faster.

The thin clay sheets should be about 1/8" (0.3 cm) thick when rolled out properly. Do not feed the thin sheets back into the pasta machine or you may create bubbles and other defects that will show up in your finished sculpt.



Step 3

Place the thin sheet of clay over the face and press it into place.



Add more clay sheets to the rest of the head until its completely covered.



Once covered you can begin to smooth the seams over. Do not smooth the seams so hard that you crush and thin out the clay sheet.



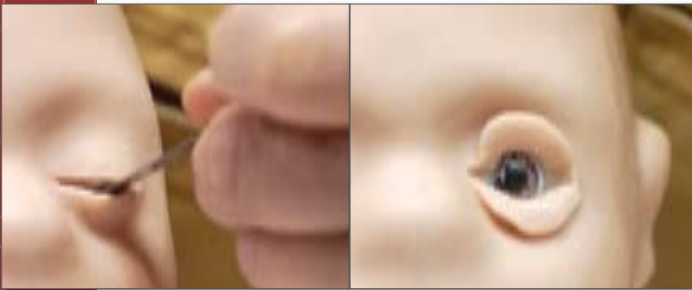
Next repeat the process again and put another layer of thin sheets over the first. When finished you should have about a 1/4" thickness of clay over the entire head. Smooth the head using the Beaver Tail Palette Knife.

The Clay Shaper Tools are individually labeled so you know exactly which tool to use for each step.



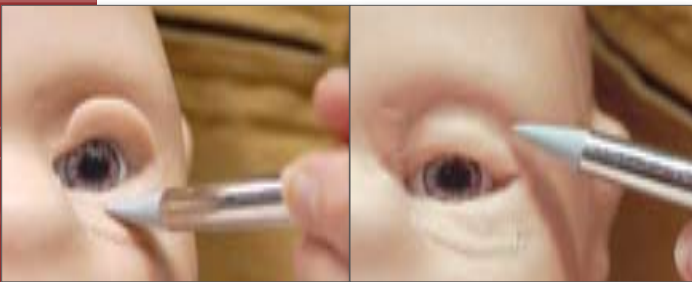
Step 4

Using the clay palette knife make an opening for the eyelids and peel them back using the #2 Taper Point Tool from the Clay Shaper Tool Set.



Step 5

Form the eyelids using the #2 Taper Point Tool.



Step 6

Form the nostrils using the #2 Taper Point Tool.



Step 7

Using the clay palette knife create a slit where you want the mouth. Then using the #2 Taper Point Tool form where you want the corners of the mouth located.



Step 8

Roll a small piece of clay in your hands and trim it to fit the length needed between the corners of the mouth that you marked in the previous step. If you want plump lips then make sure this roll of clay is thick.



Then roll a ball of clay and flatten it like a thick pancake. Place this just below the roll of lip clay and press gently into place. Using the clay palette knife open the mouth slightly and form the round shape of the lips where they meet.



Step 9

Using the #2 Angle Chisel Tool mark and form where the nursing lip will be located in the top center of the mouth. Then blend and smooth the upper and lower lip as well as the chin.



Define where the edges of your lips will be and the final shape of the mouth. Now you can use the Angle Chisel Tool to add more lip lines.



Step 10

The sculpting form has the locations of the ears already marked out for you. The two layers of thin clay sheets have given you enough clay



to now create the ears. Use the picture to the right as a guide to forming the ear lobe and inner ear details.



Step 11

Use your Beaver Tail Palette Knife to smooth out any lumps and bumps on the head. Babies have very smooth heads! You can use a tiny bit of water to reduce the surface tension and make your Beaver Tail Palette Knife glide more easily over the clay. Smooth the head as much as possible. By using the Beaver Tail Palette Knife for the smoothing you won't cause gouges or add finger prints and dents to the soft clay.



Bake the head according to the manufacturer's directions on the box of clay. Let the head completely cool before removing from the oven. If you remove the head too soon it may cool too quickly and crack.

If you would like more advanced instruction on sculpting using our Secrist Sculpting Form then watch our DVD, *The Art of Sculpting*.

Written by Pat Secrist.