

Embossed

SNOWFLAKE BOX



A creative project using Pearl Ex Mica Powders and embossed polymer clay to turn a simple white box into a lovely gift box!

By Linda Hollander - e-mail: paintingfool@live.com

MATERIALS

- Unfinished 5" x 5" Hexagon Wood Box (Item # 0085144580900 from Wal-Mart or box of choice)
- Sculpey Soufflé (Polymer Clay)—#6001 Igloo (1.7 oz block)
- Darice Embossing Essentials Embossing Folder (Snowflake Swirl or pattern of choice)
- Jacquard Pearl Ex Powdered Pigments (#644 Reflex Violet, #636 Emerald, #647 Sky Blue)
- Multi-Purpose Sealer
- Acrylic White Paint
- Sealer/Finisher Spray (Satin Finish)

TOOLS

- Non-porous surface for cutting (such a ceramic tile or marble slab)
- Clay conditioning machine
- Sculpey Acrylic Roller ASBAR
- Sculpey Super Slicer ASBSET
- Flat paint brush
- Liner brush
- Spray bottle
- Fine and medium grit sandpaper
- Baby wipes
- Glue



DIRECTIONS

1. Seal all areas of wooden box with Multi-Purpose Sealer. When dry, sand lightly to smooth. Apply base coat to all areas of box with white acrylic paint until opaque. When dry, apply sealer/finisher spray to all areas.
2. Slice clay block into 4 pieces. Condition each piece of clay before use by running through clay conditioning machine 4-6 times. Combine all four clay pieces.
3.
 - a. Run clay through conditioning machine on the thickest setting until you have a nice smooth sheet of clay as wide as the short end of the embossing folder.
 - b. Fill spray bottle with clean water and lightly spray inside of embossing folder (the water will help the clay to release from the folder.)
 - c. Lay clay inside folder and close.
 - d. Roll over the folder with the clay roller using firm pressure. Turn folder over and repeat. Gently open folder and check the impression.
 - e. Gently coax clay off embossing sheet. Lay the clay sheet back on the tile with the negative snowflake impression side facing up.
4. Lay box lid upside down over embossed clay sheet. Press to indent edges slightly. Carefully remove box top. Use Super Slicer to trim along inside edges of impression.
5. Open the Pearl Ex powders and put a little powder into each lid. Load your fingertip with Sky Blue. Rub your fingertip lightly in a circular motion a few times on the tile. Tap your fingertip up and down a few times onto the tile to knock off loose particles. Using light pressure, rub your fingertip over the center of the raw clay. Continue rubbing gently in a circular motion to smooth the color and fade out the edges.

NOTES:

- Do not press hard enough to stretch or indent the clay.
 - Practicing this technique on scrap clay is advisable, if you are a novice with mica powders and clay.
 - Use a baby wipe to clean your finger.
6. Repeat step 5 with Pearl Ex Emerald. Blend color over the edge of the blue areas until a gradation of color occurs. Repeat again with Pearl Ex Reflex Violet.
 7. If Pearl Ex powders settle into the embossed areas of the clay, gently blow on the powder to remove it. If color remains in the embossed areas, bake it and then use the liner and acrylic white paint to touch up.
 8. Bake clay on tile according to manufacturer's directions.
 9. When clay has cooled, insert it into the box top. If the clay does not fit well, sand edges of clay sheet until it fits.
 10. Glue clay sheet into box top. —