

## Materials List

### **Bisque Puzzler Molds: by ClayPuzzling.com**

BP321 Large Gourd  
BP322 Medium Gourd  
BP323 Small Gourd

### **Clay: by Continental Clay**

Low-Fire Moist Red  
Low-Fire Moist White

### **Colors: by Mayco**

EL-108 Jade Moss  
SS-24 Chocolate Fudge  
SS-6 Santa Red  
SS-111 Brightest Yellow  
AC-514 Matte Spray

### **Brushes & Tools: by Royal & Langnickel Brush**

998ST Metal Ferrule Duster  
SG825-4 Soft Grip Bristle Fan  
L400R-12 Regis Bristle Round Drybrush  
R2005 Synthetic Cleaning Sponge  
RSET-POT7 Sculpting Tools

### **By ClayPuzzling.com**

PPT1 Puzzling Press Tool  
LA100 Forma Leaf Rubber Leaves Assortment

### **Miscellaneous:**

Washcloth  
Newspaper  
Silicone-Based Glue  
Masking Tape

### **Contact the Artist**

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**Create unique textures in clay with this chunky clay puzzling technique using Bisque Puzzler Molds. The day before starting this project, flatten out a one-pound piece of low-fire white clay approximately 1/8 inch thick and allow to dry overnight. This dry clay will be used beginning in step two of the project.**

**Step 1** Open the molds with the inside cavity of both halves are facing up. Remove any dust or debris using the Metal Ferrule Duster.

**Step 2** On a clean, hard work surface, bust up the dried white low-fire clay set out the night before. Pieces should not be larger than a half inch size. You'll have a variety of shapes from fine powder and larger.

**Step 3** Spread out the broken up clay so it's not all clumped up in one spot. If the clay is not spread out, the red clay will be completely covered with white when pressed over the chunks.

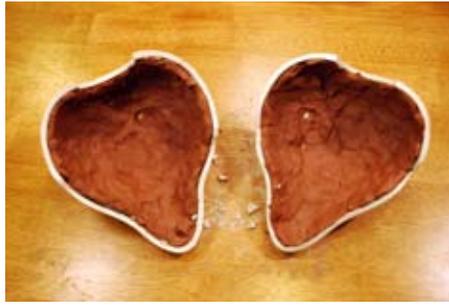
**Step 4** Flatten a piece of red clay between your fingers so it's about the thickness of a cast piece.

**Step 5** Place the piece of flattened, moist red clay over the top of the dried chunks and press down, embedding the white chunks into the red.

**Step 6** Lift the clay and place it inside the Puzzler Mold with the chunks of dry clay facing down, against the mold.



**Step 7** Continue repeating steps 2 through 6 until the entire interior of both molds are filled with a layer of clay, right up to the top edge of the mold. Slightly overlap each piece of clay placed in the mold. Do not go past the top edge of the mold. If you puzzle past the edge, the two mold halves will not fit together in a later step.



**Step 8** Use the washcloth to press the clay in each mold half, forcing the clay pieces together. You should not be able to see any of the spots where the clay parts meet once pressed. You can drag the washcloth across the clay if needed to fill in gaps.

**Step 9** Create a coil of clay about a half inch thick and long enough to go around the inner edge of one half of the mold. This coil of clay should be gently pressed against the clay in the mold but should not go past the seam line.



**Step 10** Pick up one half of the mold and wrap your hands around the edge of the mold so if the clay wants to pop out as you turn the mold half over, your hands will catch it.



**Step 11** Place the two matching mold parts together and wrap tightly with the Velcro strap.

**Step 12** Use the Puzzling Press Tool to go inside the mold and press the clay coil to attach both halves of the molds. Mash the clay from the side of the mold where the coil was placed onto the opposite side.



**Step 13** Pull the Puzzling Press Tool out of the mold and look inside to be sure the two halves of the mold are attached throughout. Use a flashlight to see inside the mold if needed.

**Step 14** Remove the Velcro strap and pull away one half of the mold. Don't force the mold apart. If it sticks, let it set for a little while before trying again. Forcing the mold apart could cause the clay gourd to rip in half.

**Step 15** Feel the bottom of the clay and if it feels firm enough to stand on its own, remove it from the mold and stand on an absorbent surface like newspaper. It's possible some chunks of the white clay will fall out as it's removed. Don't be concerned if this happens. Use wooden sculpting tools to smooth the seam line areas. If large gaps exist, fill in with moist clay. Do not use water at this time to smooth. Use water to perfect areas after they dry. Press small chunks of dry white clay randomly along the seam line to blend texture.

**Step 16** Repeat the process for the other two gourds.

**Step 17** Create the stems by starting with a small coil of clay you form with your hands. Use a sharp edge of a sculpting tool to add texture. Once textured, twist the clay coil slightly and hook around to desired shape. Mix some chunks of dry red clay with water to make slip. Score (scratch lines) on the bottom of the coil and on the gourd where the stem will be attached. Add a little of the slip mixture and attach the parts.



**Step 18** Flatten a few pieces of clay large enough to cover the leaf forms and at a thickness of a cast piece. Press one leaf of choice into the clay and rip off the excess clay around the outer edges of the leaves.



**Step 19** Bevel the edges of the leaves by pulling your thumb down at an angle all around the leaf removing clay just on the edges. You want the leaves to be thick in the middle and thin on the sides.



**Step 20** Peel the leaf away from the clay. Start pulling away at the stem so if you damage the leaf slightly it won't matter because the stem gets folded under.



**Step 21** Bend the leaf around a little so it's not flat and place it on an absorbent surface to dry. Do not attach the leaves at this time. It will be easier to fire and paint and attach the leaves with glue later. Continue making additional leaves in the same manner.



**Step 22** Let the gourds and leaves dry sufficiently

before firing to cone 04. It's best to let them dry for at least a week.

**Step 23** Use the Stiff Fan to apply one generous coat of Jade Moss to each gourd and stem. Once dry, use a damp Cleaning Sponge to wipe away color on highlights, leaving color in the crevices. Fire to cone 06.

**Step 24** Thin Chocolate Fudge with equal parts water and use the stiff fan to apply a coat to each leaf. The color should puddle in the crevices and details and slightly tint the smoother areas. Let dry.

**Step 25** Load the #12 Regis Round with Brightest Yellow and drybrush parts of each leaf. Without washing the brush, dip into Santa Red and drybrush additional areas of the leaves giving an orange shade. Without washing the brush again, dip back into the Santa Red and drybrush the final parts of the leaf. The final leaf should have yellow, orange and red areas. Optional colors like greens and rusts could also be drybrushed on the leaves added color.

**Step 26** Seal the leaves with Matte Spray. Let dry and glue into place on the top of each gourd with a silicone-based adhesive. Use masking tape to hold the leaves in place until the glue dries.

