

Materials List

Bisque Puzzler Molds:
by ClayPuzzling.com
BP-TREE21 Lg. Tree Cone
BP-TREE12 Sm. Tree Cone

Colors: by ClayPuzzling.com
RG600 Copper Matte
by: Manufacturer of Choice
Acrylic Stains
Matte Spray Sealer

Brushes & Tools: by Royal & Langnickel Brush
Drybrushes
RSET-POT6 Sculpting Tools

Miscellaneous:
Newspaper
Masking Tape
Moist Clay of Choice
Small Washcloth Towel
Glitters & Gemstones by Royal & Langnickel
Clear Glue

Clay Extruder: by ClayPuzzling.com
KI200 Industrial Extruder
or EXRUDE2 Shorter Extruder

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Create fun textured and coil trees with this simple method using Bisque Puzzler Molds and moist clay.

Textured Trees

Step 1 Wrap Bisque Puzzler cone with a few layers of newspaper and tuck extra inside cone. Use masking tape to hold the end of the paper down if needed.

Step 2 Flatten pieces of clay with your fingers and press over the cone shape. Slightly overlap each piece of clay when pressing together. Try to keep the thickness uniform, about 1/4 inch thick.

Step 3 Cover the cone with clay as far down as you'd like the tree high. Press firmly, eliminating any lines in the clay.

Step 4 Starting up about an inch from the bottom of the tree, use various ends on the sculpting tools to make impressions and textures. Practice on scraps of clay to see all the different patterns you can achieve.

Step 5 Continue adding layers of texture as working your way around the tree all the way to the top.

Step 6 When all the textures are complete, pick up the shape and wedge your hand inside the cone. Twist and pull the cone mold from inside the clay shape. Place the cone aside.

Step 7 Tuck any extra paper inside the clay tree and stand it upright. Look straight down over the top of the cone to be sure it stands properly. Allow to dry for a couple of hours.

Step 8 After drying for a couple of hours, pick up the tree, reach under, grab hold of the paper and begin twisting to remove. A small amount of paper may remain in the tip and will burn away in firing.

Step 9 Allow to dry for at least a week before firing to the appropriate temperature for the clay used.

Step 10 Apply a basecoat of choice to each tree and drybrush with a couple lighter colors. The Pink tree was basecoated with a dark purple and drybrushed with pink and white. The green tree was basecoated with a dark green and drybrushed with a green, green and sage green. The teal blue tree was basecoated with a deep teal and drybrushed with colonial green and aqua blue.

Step 11 Apply Matte Spray Sealer to each tree and sprinkle with glitters while the sealer is still damp.

Coil (Extruder) Trees

Step 1) Step 1 Load extruder with choice of clay and insert 3-hole attachment on the end.

Step 2 Wrap Bisque Puzzler cone with a layer of newspaper and tuck extra inside cone.

Step 3 Extrude coils of clay over a towel. Make the coils at least a foot long.

Step 4 Begin wrapping the coils around the paper-covered cone. Attach the loose end to another coil so it's not floating, leaving sharp points on the jagged end.

Step 5 Continue to overlap clay coils over the entire cone.

Step 6 Press with towel hard enough to attach all the coils where they overlap.

Step 7 Fill in any large openings with coils. Add extra coils along the bottom for extra support. Press with towel.

Step 8 Untuck any paper inside the cone.

Step 9 Slide the paper and clay off the cone and tuck extra paper inside clay tree.

Step 10 Stand the tree up on several layers of newspaper or a sheet of drywall and look straight down to make sure it's standing straight. Apply a little pressure to any area needing adjustments.

Step 11 Once the tree is firm enough to stand on its own, reach inside and gently twist the paper until it comes loose from the clay. Do not force the paper. If it does not pop loose, leave it and it will fire away.

Step 12 After allowing sufficient drying time, fire to the appropriate cone for the selected clay.

Step 13 Decorate in desired colors and technique.



