

Clay Turtles

with Claudia Citton



Clay Turtles



Materials:

- Non stick surface to work on such as cork, cardboard, newspaper or a wooden table
- Fork
- Jar with water
- Skewer
- Paddle pop stick (optional)
- Newspaper (optional)
- Clay (you can also use air dry clay, plasticine, polymer clay, fimo, play dough)
- Wire or fishing line to cut the clay

Instructions:

1. Using the palm of your hand, make a ball of clay by tapping away at all the corners.
2. Place the ball of clay in your palm, push your thumb into the centre of the ball quite deep, but be careful not to push through.
3. Start to pinch the pot by placing your thumb inside the hole while at the same time rotating the pot.
4. Pinch the pot with even pressure from the top to the bottom, be careful not to go too thin as this will become the turtle's shell.
5. Scrunch up small pieces of newspaper and place them inside the hole of the pinch pot. This will help to support the pot.

6. Turn the pot upside down so the base of the turtle shell is on the table.
7. Create four flippers by pinching or modelling 4 equal pieces of clay with your hands.
8. Place all four flippers on the table in the position you would like to join them.
9. Place the shell on top and draw a soft line with your skewer so you have a guide of where you want to join them.
10. Attach the flippers to the shell using slurry. Slurry is a paste made by mixing water and clay and acts like a glue to join pieces together. Score the clay with your fork and add slurry. Join each flipper carefully by scoring the top of the flippers and underneath the shell where they will join together.
11. Secure them well by wiggling together and placing a small coil of clay around each flipper where the shell and the flippers meet.
12. Blend in the coil with the tips of your fingers.
13. Carefully turn the turtle shell upside down and smudge the excess clay underneath. This will make the flippers more secure.
14. To create the head, attach a small ball of clay onto the side of the turtle shell using your fork and slurry.
15. Attach together by wiggling the two pieces together and placing a small coil of clay around the head. This will secure it to the shell and becomes the turtle's neck.
16. Blend the coil in with your fingers or paddle pop stick.
17. Make some eyes with the remaining clay by rolling the small pieces of clay in your hands to form tiny balls.
18. Score and attach to the head using your fork or skewer with water. Be sure to place the eyes on the side of the head.
19. Make and attach a tail if you like. This is optional.
20. Using your skewer, lightly draw the mouth, nostrils and some patterns on the turtle's back.
21. Now your turtle is ready to be fired.
Optional: Paint with underglazes (special ceramic paints) and then glaze and refire.

If you are using air dried clay, allow to dry then decorate using acrylic paint, glitter and other things like beads or pasta to decorate your turtle shell.

[Click here to watch Claudia make a clay turtle on YouTube!](#)