

“Hotel Rapunzel” Box

This whimsical box can hold a special, tiny treasure.

Supplies

The Basics

Teflon sheet
Clay Roller/Slats
Badger Balm
Water and Brush
Scalpel

Clay

PMC + Clay
Our castle weighs 82g.
PMC3 Paste
PMC3 Syringe

Other Tools

“Designed Bento Box” Texture Mat (SM2-DEBE)
“Ditsy ” Texture Mat (SM2-DTZY)
Ring Mandrel Size 7 (MULTIM)
Plastic Triangle Template
Tissue slicing Blade (SB)

Finishing

Wire or Brass Brush
Tumbler/Shot
2” x2” Ultra Polishing Pad (ULTPOLPAD)
Liver of sulfur (LOSGEL-1)
Agate Burnisher (BTSTONE3)
Fine Tip Steel Burnisher (BTF)

Step-by-Step

Success in creating this box is based on the proper drying of each step.



1) Lightly coat surface of roller and hands with Badger Balm. Condition the clay by gently kneading and compressing into a smooth ball.

2) Roll out a large ball of clay to a thickness of two slats (six cards). Using the tissue slicing blade, cut out 2 pieces 2” by 1”. Reroll the remainder to the same thickness and cut out 2 pieces of clay 2” by

7/8”. Set these aside to dry. Note that you can also make paper templates of these shapes and cut around them with the tissue blade. Using the long blade helps you to cut good straight edges, easily.



3) While the "walls" dry, prepare the ring mandrel by covering it with a piece of paper and tape to hold it on. This keeps the clay away from the aluminum and allows for easy removal of the clay when it is dry.



4) Lightly coat the middle section of the "Ditzzy" texture mat and roll out the clay on this section to a thickness of one slat (three cards). Use the tissue slicing blade to cut a strip 1 ¼" wide. Wrap strip around the ring mandrel.

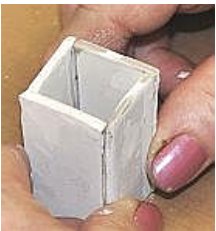


5) Make a cut where the two pieces overlap. Remove excess clay and join the two ends with paste. Let dry. You will add the "ceiling" of the tower later.



6) Begin construction of the box by wetting the flat edge of one of the larger pieces and the edge of a smaller piece.

7) Apply some PMC3 paste and join the pieces. Hold for a few minutes until the paste has set. You may need to prop the piece that is standing up. A rubber block works well for this. Repeat with the other two pieces of clay. Let these dry.

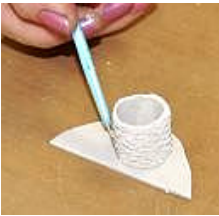


8) Join these two "L" shaped pieces using the same technique as above. These will dry better when in a standing position. When the "box" has nearly dried, carefully wet the seams from the inside and squeeze a bead of clay from the syringe along each joint. Run a wet brush over these to flatten and strengthen the seam. Do not move the box shape while doing this. Dry completely.

9) Next, roll out a piece of clay to a two slat thickness (six cards). Brush the bottom edge of the box with water and coat with paste. Press gently onto the rolled clay. Use the tissue slicing blade to cut off the excess clay and create the bottom of the box.



10) To create the lid, roll a small piece of clay on the center of the “Ditsy” mat and cut a piece just a bit smaller than the inside of the box. Cut it a little too large rather than too small as you can adjust the size later. Let dry. Re-roll the remaining clay and cut another square. Use the box footprint to create this box and add about a quarter of an inch all the way around. When cutting this with the long blade, it is quite easy to just eye this cut. Let pieces dry.



11) To create the “ceiling” of the tower, roll a small piece of clay to a one slat thickness (three cards). Coat one end of the tower piece with paste and attach it to the clay. Cut off the excess clay and dry.

12) When all of these pieces have dried, you may need to smooth them by sanding or rubbing with a wet finger.

13) Center the larger lid piece on the top of the box. Turn upside down and very lightly mark the outline of the box on the underside of the lid using a pencil. Wet the smooth side of the small square and the middle of the underside of the lid with water. Apply some paste to the small square and attach to the lid. Make sure the lid fits down into the box with only a little movement. When this joint is dry, attach the tower piece to the center of the top of the lid in the same manner and let dry.



14) Roll out a long piece of clay in the center of the “Ditzzy” mat. Cut to a width of $\frac{1}{2}$ ” using the tissue slicing blade. Let this set for a few minutes to just slightly firm up. Using a scalpel, cut out the crenellations for the top of the tower.

15) Coat the edge of the tower top with paste and apply the crenellated piece, cutting where the ends overlap and joining with paste. Clean up the joint, inside and out, with a wet brush. You may run a small bead of syringe clay around the edge of this join if needed. Smooth with a wet brush.



16) Using the Designed Bento Box mat repeat this process for the edge of the square part of the lid.



17) On this same area of the mat, press on small pieces of clay so that they are very thin and apply the “bricks” to the square box in a somewhat random pattern. We allowed some areas to be free of pattern and some with ripped edges. Each section was applied with water and paste, as above.

18) Cut a small window in both the top and bottom sections of the box with a scalpel.

19) When the box is nearing bone dry, you can carve, smooth or add the texture.

20) Let the entire box dry and clean as desired. Fire using manufacturer’s directions for the clay you are using.

21) After firing, brush with a metal brush and tumble to harden and shine.

22) We completed our castle by creating a very weak solution of Liver of Sulfer gel and water – just a drop of gel in water. We dipped the castle briefly and set it aside until we achieved the colors you see. The key here was patience. The brilliant colors do not appear immediately. A weak solution and some time can create astonishing color on PMC.

23) Polish high spots with an agate burnisher and 2”x2” Ultra Polishing Pads.

24) We also braided a little silver thread to create Rapunzel’s hair. We knotted both ends of the braid and pushed one end through the tower window with the Fine Tip Steel Burnisher.

