



What A Character™
Mold B2: Six Face Beads

Designed by Maureen Carlson

Silicone rubber mold Includes:

- Two 1-inch round faces*
- Two 1-inch long faces*
- One 1 ¼-inch long face*
- One 1 ½-inch stylized face*
- Five embellishments*



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Look at what you can do with Mold B2.

All faces except the top 6 have been embellished.



*Purchase companion Mold B
for even more bead options*

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What a Character™ Flexible Push Molds

This mold was especially designed for creating face beads. Finished beads might become focal beads, totem sculptures, stackable beads, beads-on-a-stick or art dolls/figures.

Each mold section is open at the top and bottom in order to create a channel for accommodating bead threads, cables, rods or wires. Imagine how many different beads you can create from just this one bead mold. Purchase the companion Mold B or Mold B2 (see back of brochure) for even more choices.

*These molds are designed for use with both oven-bake polymer clay and air-drying clays or modeling compounds. If your clay is especially soft and sticky, you may need to brush the mold prior to each use with a very light dusting of cornstarch, baby powder or water, though this is **USUALLY NOT NECESSARY**.*

BASIC STEPS FOR USING MOLD

(Note: Both Mold B and Mold B2 may be pictured in the how-to photos)

METHOD ONE: For use with soft clay



1. Condition clay. Roll clay into a smooth ball, then into a short rope that is as long as the mold opening but is slightly narrower.



2. Press rod firmly into mold. Try not to let it slide sideways or you might create double features. Note: You may need to dust your fingers with powder, cornstarch or water to keep the clay from sticking to your fingers and lifting prematurely.

3. Alternate method for pressing clay into mold: Have a weak thumb or stiff clay? Make a rounded tamping tool from polymer clay. Bake. Use tool to press clay into mold.





4. Lay rod (knitting needle, bead wire, skewer, etc.) over clay in mold. Press down on rod to indent clay.



5. Add a second rope of clay, similar in size to the first one, over clay in mold. Press gently to stick the two pieces together. Stroke the clay away from the edges of the mold and towards the middle. Lift bead straight up and out of mold. Lifting the bead sideways may distort features.



6. With rod still in place, roll sides of bead gently on table to smooth sides. To finish bead, alter face and/or embellish bead. Follow hardening instructions on package of clay.

METHOD TWO: For use with firmer clay



Follow steps in Method One, except before placing clay into mold, use your fingers to gently pull out a nose shape in the clay where the nose will be. Before pressing clay into mold, position clay rope so that clay "nose" fits into the nose area of mold. Use this method if you keep getting faces with flat noses.

METHOD THREE: To create appliqué faces

1. Press a flattened piece of clay into mold, just enough to cover the face part of the mold.



2. Lift out face or impression and apply to base bead. Base bead can be raw clay or an already hardened surface, such as clay, glass or ceramic



3. Smooth edges of soft clay onto base bead.

METHOD FOUR: Changing the shape of the face

Flex mold so that the face area is stretched. Press clay into impression, keeping mold flexed. Remove face from mold. Follow step two in Method Three

BASIC STEPS FOR ALTERING FACES AND CREATING ONE-OF-A-KIND BEADS

To give more definition to eyes, use blunt needle tool to slightly indent center of eye.



To create a smiling mouth, press blunt needle tool into corner of mouth, then lift slightly.



Use blunt needle tool to add detail to nostrils. Use soft brush to curve sides of nostrils into opening of nose.

For Fuller lips. use brush to gently brush up on top lip and brush down on bottom lip.



Use soft brush to change an open eye to a sleeping eye.

ADD EMBELLISHMENTS



Press soft clay into patterned sections of mold to create thin embellishment strips. Press strips onto bead in layers. Mix and match.





Create your own embellishments by rolling and applying tiny clay balls and very thin strings of clay to the basic face. Use needle tools to add dots.

ADD MIXED-MEDIA EMBELLISHMENTS

Before hardening beads, make holes in base bead. Press pieces of metal, wire, glass, stone or small hardened pieces of clay into holes. Press sides together slightly to trap embellishments.



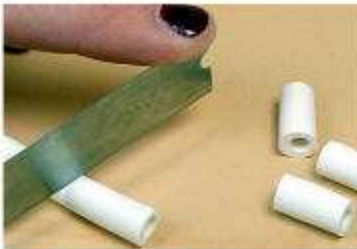
TIPS

MAKE CORE BEADS

A hardened core bead in the center of the soft clay will help protect the bead shape and keep the bead hole from enlarging. This is important if you will be rolling beads across the mold to pick up patterns. (See "Basic steps for Making Pattern Beads" on next page.)

To create core beads, pierce a short rope of clay with a smooth skewer. Stretch and roll clay along length of rod. Loosen clay on rod by twisting rod. This is to ensure easy removal once clay is hardened.





Cut lengths before or after hardening, depending on clay used. Note that baked polymer clay cuts more easily if it is cut while hot with a sharp tissue blade or clay blade.



To use the core bead with face beads, place hardened core bead on top of soft clay in mold. Cover core with clay and proceed as in Basic Step #5.

With rod still in place in bead, roll bead against patterned edges of mold.



Basic Steps for Making Patterned Beads

Place a piece of hardened core bead onto rod, then cover core with soft clay. Roll bead repeatedly over textures, or press into mold cavities, to create textured beads.



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