

What a Character[®]
MoldF26
Male Face, Weathered
Height: 2 inches or 5 cm



Designed by Maureen Carlson

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Caution: Our silicone rubber is not FDA approved for use with food products.



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For more info on using our push molds, see this free PDF file:
www.weefolk.com/getting-started-making-doll-bodies.pdf
and watch our how-to YouTube videos at:
www.youtube.com/weefolkcreations

What a Character[®] Flexible Push Molds

Tips and Tricks for Using What a Character[®] Flexible Push Molds.

Our molds are perfect for use with both polymer 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 or baby powder. Be sure and brush out any excess powder.



Roll a 1 ¼ to 1 ½-inch ball of clay into a short cone shape. Use fingers to press cone into a smooth, flattened cone shape.



Press clay into mold, being sure that point fits into nose.

Note: The finished face will be hollow in the back for 3 reasons:

1. Dries or bakes more evenly
2. Uses less clay
3. Easier to manipulate

To remove clay from mold, use a second piece of clay as a handle to pull face straight out from mold.



Alternate Method: Use a smooth, rounded tool to tamp clay into mold, then use thumbs to do final pressing.



Carefully lift clay face straight out of mold, using both hands.

ADDING DETAILS TO FACE

You've probably noticed by now that there are some critical details missing in these faces, for instance, nostrils. And the sides of the face and the chin area seem wider than the average face. That was intentional, as push molds can't have any undercuts, or parts that might stick out from the mold and rip or scar the face when it is pulled from the mold. If you want these details, you'll need to add them.



SMOOTHING THE FACE

You may find that there are a few areas on the face that need "correction" or cleaning. That seems to be part of using a push mold, as every bump on the way out of the mold seems to leave its mark. Smooth those marks with your finger or a small brush. Rubbing alcohol will dissolve the clay slightly, so dip the brush in it and use sparingly. To help define lines, drag the point of a needle along the line.

USE VERY LIGHT PRESSURE!



ADDING DETAIL TO EYES

If you don't like to paint, you might want to create clay details for the eyes. An easy method is to press a blunt needle into the eye making an iris-sized impression. Drop a very small ball of unbaked clay, color of your choice, into the impression. Press ball **VERY GENTLY** with the same blunt needle to create a concave ball. To make pupil, either drop in a really tiny black ball or press a hole with a sharp needle.

Option: Add seed beads for eyes, and then compress face slightly to fold eyelids over edges of bead.

MAKING NOSTRILS

To add nostrils, press into nostril with a sharp needle, then enlarge with a slightly larger knitting needle or tapestry needle.

SHAPING NOSTRILS

There is usually an indentation behind each nostril. Also notice how the edge of the nostril circles around and then back under the nose and into the opening. Every nose is a slightly different shape, but you can approximate the shape by rolling a needle under the nostril and up along the outside edge, next to the cheek. Smooth lines with a brush.

PAINTING THE EYES, CHEEKS AND LIPS

To add mixed tones to the face, choose a color of acrylic paint that is one or two shades darker than the clay flesh color. Brush on, then wipe off immediately. Use damp brush to wipe excess paint from recessed areas. If paint dries too quickly and is blotchy, remove with rubbing alcohol. Add medium or extender to the paint to increase drying time. Note that any cracks or rough spots in the clay will pick up extra color.



To add translucent blush to cheeks, mix blending gel, matte medium or extender with cheek color, then dab onto face. Remove excess paint by blotting and dabbing with finger or paper toweling so that edges blend softly into face. Use the same color for lips, using a heavier coat to create a darker color. Paint the ball of the eye white. Don't paint the inside corners white as that's where the tear ducts are.

To Paint Eyes

Paint a partial circle of color for the iris, imagining the edges to be part of a larger circle. Let dry, then use tip of brush or point of round toothpick to add a black dot of paint for the pupil. Dot on a white highlight at the edge of the pupil, making it at the same place on each eye. Use a very light lifting stroke, with a nearly dry brush, to create the eyebrows and eyelashes.

For a complete head, build head over foil that you have rolled into a firm egg shape.



To make ears

Press flattened teardrop into ear cavity in mold. Press all clay away from edges of mold and into center. If there's too much clay, remove ear. Cut away clay, and, yes, start over!

Press ear over indentation in side of head. Press rounded tool into center of ear to sink it into the head. Use blunt needle tool to blend front edge of ear.