

What a Character[®] Mold WF1

5 Whimsical Faces, 1 in.



Designed by Maureen Carlson

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



**Produced by Wee Folk Creations
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What a Character® Flexible Push Molds

A Few Simple Tips and Tricks for Using Your Flexible Push Mold

PREPARING THE MOLD

This mold is intended for use with both polymer and air-drying clays or modeling compounds. A release agent is usually not necessary, but if your clay is especially soft or sticky, you may need to brush the mold prior to each use with water or with a very light dusting of cornstarch or baby powder. Be sure and brush out any visible powder before using.



USEFUL TOOLS:

Pictured here are a few of Maureen's favorite clay tools: Needle tool, knitting needles, flat or filbert brush, knife, pin tool for eyes, smoothing tool made from polymer clay



MAKE YOUR OWN PIN TOOL FOR EYES and SMOOTHING TOOL FOR PRESSING CLAY INTO MOLD

For Smoothing Tool, from polymer clay roll a smooth round ball. Roll ball into a log shape with both ends very smooth. For a more versatile tool, be sure that the ends are of different sizes.

For Pin Tool for Eyes, begin with a dressmaker pin that has a round glass or plastic head. If plastic, be sure and test-bake it in the oven before making the tool. From polymer clay roll a smooth log with one end rounded and the other pointed. Using a pair of pliers, slightly bend the pointed end of the pin. This bend will keep it from slipping out of the clay "handle". Insert pin into pointed end.

BEGIN WITH CLAY



Roll a ball of clay into a cone shape. The point of the cone needs to be small enough

to fit into the nose portion of the mold. Press clay into mold, being careful to not let it shift in the mold or you might get 4 eyes or a double mouth.



REMOVING FACE FROM MOLD METHOD A: USE SOFT CLAY AS A HANDLE

Press a piece of soft clay against the back of the face. Loosen edges of face, then lift face from mold. Be careful to lift straight up so as not to distort the features.

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REMOVING FACE FROM MOLD
METHOD B: INSERT FOIL "SKULL"



STEP B1: Begin by pressing clay cone shape into mold. Hollow out back of head by pressing and rolling with a smoothing tool to create a cavity.



STEP B2: To create "skull", from aluminum FOIL, roll a small ball that will fit into the cavity that you made in the back of the head (step B1). Roll and press the aluminum foil ball into an egg shape. Roll it against your work surface until it is very hard and smooth. Press a firm tool, such as a knitting needle, into the foil to serve as a handle.



STEP B3:
Press foil "skull" into cavity in back of head.



STEP B4:
Press a flattened ball of clay over foil, being careful not to shift clay in mold. Smooth edges. Pull clay slightly away from edges of mold, towards center of head.



STEP B5:
Using knitting needle handle, lift head from mold.



STEP B6:
Using fingers to smooth sides of face into back of head.
NOTE: 91% isopropyl alcohol, applied with a brush, will help soften polymer clay and make it easier to smooth.

REMOVING FACE FROM MOLD

METHOD C: This method is useful if you wish to compress or stretch the clay face before putting it into the foil "skull".



STEP C1: Press clay into mold, then use smoothing tool to make cavity in back of head. Use enough clay so that the edges of the clay come up over the sides of the mold. Use these clay edges to gently lift the hollowed-out head from the mold.



STEP C2:
Make foil "skull" the same as you did for Method B, making it the size that will fit into the back of the head.



STEP C3:
Fit the hollowed-out head over the foil skull, smoothing the clay edges onto the foil. Bake or harden the face as is. Add the back of the head and ears and harden again.

ADD THE EARS

There are 2 shapes of ears included in this mold. You can make even more shapes by filling only part of each ear mold, or by altering the shapes once the ears are removed from the mold.

EARS: Use mold to make ears, being sure to not overfill the mold cavity. Press ears gently to sides of face.



Use a brush handle or similar shape to press against the edge of the ear. This creates a hole in the ear plus helps adhere it to the head.

Check the shape of the ear. You might want to flatten the earlobe a bit or bend over the top of the ear. Your choice!



EYE OPTIONS

ROUNDED EYES: Leave the eyes as they are. Harden the head, then paint eyes.



ALTERING THE FACE

You have lots of options here!
1. Stretch or compress the face, being careful not to destroy the features. These two faces were made from the same face mold, but the one on the left was compressed.

INDENTED EYES: Use a pin tool for eyes, or some similar shape, to press a slight indentation, or iris, into the center of each eye. Using a sharp needle tool, press in a dot for the pupil. Be sure the dot is in the center of the iris indentation. Leave eyes unpainted, paint just the iris area or paint the whole eye, using white and an iris color. You probably don't need to add black paint for the pupil.



2. Add wrinkles around the eyes, pressing them in with a sharp tool.
3. Deepen the corners of the mouth, using a smooth knitting needle. Then smooth out the hard line with a brush. If the brush is too soft, stroke a bit of clay into the brush bristles.
4. Open the mouth, using a knitting needle. Press the point of your knife into the mouth corners to deep then. Smooth any rough spots with a brush. Remember that 91% isopropyl alcohol will help with the smoothing process.