

Viking Brooches

Using Sculpy III Clay Part 1

by Mistress Caitlin ni Dhabhghail

This class was initiated by requests for instructions on making affordable Viking style brooches. The techniques are simple and require no special tools.

Supplies needed:

Brooch:

1 package of Sculpy III polymer clay for each set (2) of brooches you wish to make. (You may use any color you might have available since the piece will be painted at the end of the project.) Viking women traditionally wore two brooches to fasten their apron dresses.

Note: Other types of polymer clay, such as Fimo can be used, but may require extra conditioning before use. Be sure to use Sculpey III, Sculpey Premo is very hard and stiff to work with. For this class, I will be supplying the mold. Further down in the handout, you will find directions for making your own mold.

A small amount of talcum powder to be used as a mold release.





A dedicated clay roller is best, but a glass jar or any round cylinder may be used, such as PVC pipe.

Do not use any utensils with this project that will come in contact with food.



Fibula:

10 in. of galvanized steel wire in 16 gauge for each brooch.

Small thin rectangular piece of business card stock to back the wire fibula in your brooch. It should be approximately 1 ½ inches by about ¾ inches in size. Bend the piece slightly so that it approximates the shape of the back of the brooch. It's sole purpose is to support the wire and to keep it from working out the back of the finished pin after repeated use

Round needle-nose pliers, flat needle pliers, wire cutters

Other supplies needed:

Rust-O-Leum Brite Metallic spray paint in gold or silver. Test other paints on scrap fired clay before use as many will eat the surface of the clay and destroy your work. Gold leaf can be applied, but is sometimes difficult for inexperienced users

Rub 'n Buff gold leaf (silver if you want silver brooches) Oval mold: (For this version, I will be supplying the mold, so you can skip making it. The spoon version will give you a smooth base which you can decorate in any manner you wish.)

Clear lacquer spray

Supplemental directions for making the mold:

Supplies needed:

Plaster of Paris

Mixing container

Box or plastic container to hold the mold until it is dry

Water and plastic mixing spoon for mixing plaster

A properly shaped stirring spoon of that will form the mold for the brooch itself. (These can be difficult to find, but I found one that was a perfect oval at Old Time Pottery. Some spoons are egg shaped, and they could be used, but will not be as correct. Size of the spoon portion should be approximately 2 inches by 2 ¾ inches, but you will have to use what you find. Be cautious not to get one much larger than this as it will be too heavy, and one smaller than this may not support the apron dress.)

Seal the sides of the box with tape so that the plaster will not leak out before it sets. A plastic container of an appropriate size may also be used. Line the box or plastic container with a single sheet of aluminum foil. This will allow the easy release from the container when the plaster has set. Mix the plaster according to its directions and set the spoon into it. The plaster should just come up to the edge of the spoon when you press it into the plaster. Use weights or tape to hold the spoon in place until the plaster sets. Let sit a minimum of 24 hours or until the plaster is dry and warm to the touch.

Making the brooch:

After your mold has cured and is dry, preheat your oven to 275 degrees Fahrenheit (or whatever your particular clay calls for.) You are now ready to construct your brooch.

For food safety purposes do not allow Sculpey to come into direct contact with any food utensils or anything that may touch food.



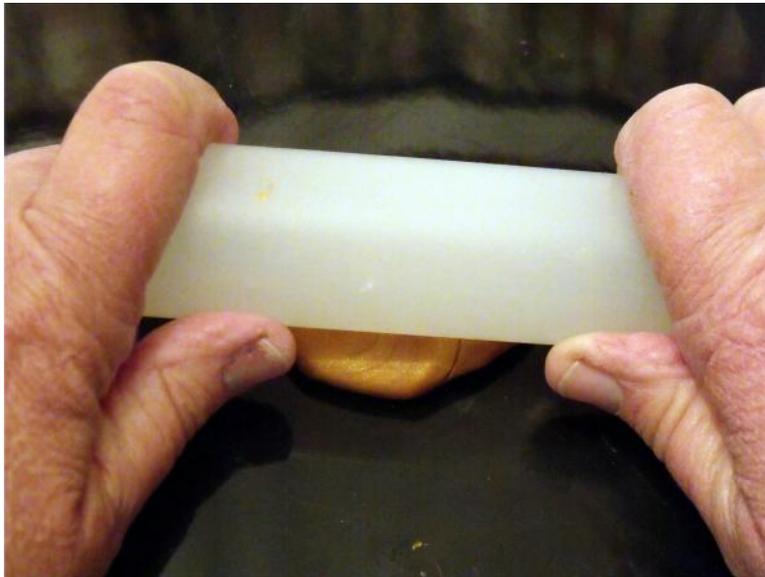
Carefully open your package and note the baking temperature and time printed on the packaging.



Break the block of Sculpey into two equal pieces and set the second half aside to use in making the second brooch.



Carefully knead the Sculpey with your hands until it becomes soft and pliable.



Using your roller, roll the Sculpey into an oval shape approximately 1/8 inch thick.



Carefully dust your mold with talcum powder and remove any excess. Do not let it fill the grooves of the mold or you will lose detail.



Place the piece of Sculpey over the mold and carefully mold it into the shape of the mold by pressing down on it with your thumbs.



Press firmly all over the clay so that it makes a firm impression of the mold. The better you do this, the finer the detail will show up. Be careful not to make it paper thin, as the wire fibula will mar the surface in later steps.





Carefully trim off the excess clay, the extra will be used later in the project.





You have just finished the first step of the brooch. Now we will need to construct the fibula pin to fit your brooch.

