

Polka Dot Flower Hair Pins by Anke Humpert



In this tutorial I will show you how to make hair pins with whimsy polka dot flowers! They are so much fun that you can make a whole bunch of them.



What you need for making the pins:

- Polymer clay (any brand), three colours, that go well together, ½ pack of each colour.
- Clay dedicated pasta machine or a rolling pin.
- Tissue blade
- A thick knitting needle
- Needle tool
- Cutter, any round shape, like a circle, a flower or a star. (1,5 to 2,5 cm or ½ inch to 1 inch in diameter)
- Bobby Pins
- Acrylic paint in white
- A small paint brush

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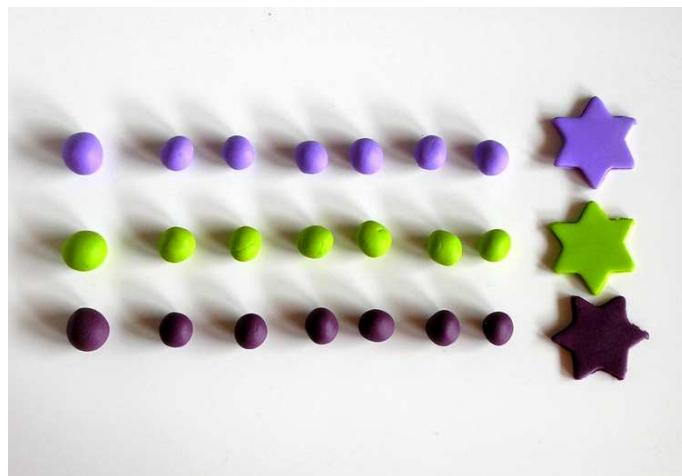
- Paper kitchen towel
- Two-part epoxy glue.



Condition your clay well, to mixed the ingredients well. Roll out sheets of each colour. If you are working with a pasta machine use you second thickest setting. If working with a rolling pin flatten your sheets to a thickness of 1mm (0.04 inch). Use your cutter to cut out: one shape as your flower base and 4 shapes to portion equal part. With these parts we will form the flower. Set you flower base to the side for now.



Use one shape to roll a ball. Divide the other three shapes in half and then roll 6 smaller balls. The bigger ball will be the centre of the flower and the smaller balls the petals.



Now you should have one flower base, one bigger ball and six smaller balls. We will mix up these parts to have a flowers in more than one colour.



One colour for the base, one for the flower centre and the third for the petals. Roll the little balls into tear drop shapes: put each ball separately in the palm of your now dominant hand and roll it with a bit of pressure back and forth, just pressing it with your index finger from your dominant hand on one side of the ball. Through this rolling motion the ball will form into a tear drop.



Now we are assembling the flower: lay down the flower base (You might use a piece of wax paper under the base to remove it easy!). On the base you position your petals and press them down lightly. Try not to deform them too much!



Now you take your bigger ball, the centre of the flower and set it on top of the petals. Press it down lightly. Now push your petals towards the centre and make them puffier. Try to keep them equally shaped.



Use the thick knitting needle to pock little depressions into the flower centre. With the needle tool make a couple of small cavities into each petal.



Do this step with each flower! Now the flowers are ready to be cured. Cure them following the manufacturer's instruction for 30 min. Let them cool completely before you start with the next step!



Use a piece of scrap paper and pour a small amount of white acrylic paint on it. Use your small paint brush and fill the cavities with white paint. Don't delude the paint with water, because that will make your next step more difficult! Let dry for 3-4 minutes.



Use a piece of paper towel to wipe off the paint that is on the surface of your flower. Making the towel wet helps to remove the paint. The paint will still be in the depressions, but not on the rest of the flower! Let the paint dry completely.



Mix your two-part epoxy glue and glue the base of the flowers to the bobby pins. Let them dry before you use them.



These little flowers are so much fun and so easy to make that you can make more of them. Try to change the basic flower by altering one of more of the following components of your flower: using a different combination of colours, a different flower base, a different number of petals, changing the colours of the petals in one flower, shaping the petals in a different way, altering the size of your components.



Have fun with your new Polka Dot Flower Hair Pins ;-))