

How To Make a Holiday Ornament

Designer: Becky Nunn

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Easy Mold Silicone Putty
- Brass Metal Stamping or Vintage Button
- Epoxy Clay-Crystal Clay
- Nunn Design 2-Part Resin Kit
- Castin' Craft Opaque Pigment-Red

TOOLS NEEDED:

- Wet wipes
- Toothpicks or headpins
- Gloves
- Timer
- Plastic Bag
- Business cards or card stock



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STEP 1: (image 1)

Select a Nunn Design Brass Stamping or a vintage button. Brass Stampings or found objects with a lot of relief make the best molds. For this tutorial, I used both a vintage button and a plated brass stamping of a snowflake.

STEP 2: (images 2-3)

Pinch off two equal sized balls of Part A and B of the Easy Mold Silicone Putty. Getting the knack for mixing just the right amount of putty will take some practice. You might mix too much or too little putty the first time. Try your best to guess how much putty you will need to have approximately 1/8" putty around the outside edge of your bezel's rim. You will also want the thickness of the silicone putty to be approximately 1/8."

STEP 3: (image 4)

The Easy Mold Silicone Putty has a 3-minute working time before it begins to harden and not take the impression. Knead both part A and part B together until the putty is blended completely and has a uniform color.

STEP 4: (images 5-9)

Roll the fully mixed Easy Mold Silicone Putty into a round ball and flatten slightly. Make sure the putty is smooth and not wrinkled (the creases in the putty will show up in the mold). I like to use the lid of the Easy Mold Silicone Putty to create a nice flat smooth disk. Place the mixed silicone ball onto a small plastic bag and press the lid evenly down into the putty. Remove the putty from the lid of the container and press the button and brass stamping into the silicone putty, but not so far into the putty that you hit the bottom. Leave the button and brass stamping in the putty for 5 minutes or until the putty is hard to the touch.

STEP 5: (images 10-11)

Once the molding putty is hard to the touch, bend back the sides and remove the button and brass stamping.

STEP 6: (image 12)

Use a wet-wipe or q-tip with rubbing alcohol to clean the insides the Nunn Design bezels.

STEP 7: (images 13-17)

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the handling and mixing of the Epoxy Clay-Crystal Clay. While wearing gloves, pinch off two equal sized balls of Part A and Part B and blend together fully until the clay is no longer marbled and uniform in color. You have approximately 90-120 minutes of working time before the clay starts to harden, so take your time. Once the clay is thoroughly mixed, remove your gloves to make it

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easier to work with the clay. For this tutorial, I mixed a Whopper Malted Milk Ball size of both Part A and B of clay because I wanted to create multiple ornaments. For each ornament I pinched off a large blueberry ball of clay.

STEP 8: (images 17-19)

Roll the thoroughly mixed Epoxy Clay-Crystal Clay between your palms until it forms a smooth round ball. I like it to be smooth because it prevents from having creases once the impression is made. Press the ball into your bezel with your fingers to create an even smooth surface in the clay.

TIP: It is easy to get little fibers mixed into the clay. Use a toothpick to remove them from the clay and pat the surface smooth again.

STEP 9: (images 20-23)

If you put too much clay inside the bezel it will squish out the sides and you will have clean up to do. If you don't put in enough, you might not get a good impression. Regardless, both are easy things to fix, so it might take a little experimenting to get it just right.

Place the Crystal Clay filled Bezel face down onto the putty mold and press down evenly. To make sure I have a really good impression, I like to pick up the mold and press the mold into the clay, as well as pressing the bezel down into the mold.

TIP: If filling the corners with Crystal Clay are a challenge on the square and rectangle shaped bezels, use a toothpick to press the clay up into the corners of the bezel. Pat down the toothpick marked clay with your fingers until smooth.

STEP 10: (images 24-25)

I also created an impression in one of the ornaments with pressing the brass stamping directly into the Crystal Clay, instead of using a mold.

STEP 11:

Using a wet-wipe, clean up any excess Crystal Clay that might have been left on the bezel. The Crystal Clay hardens like cement, so cleaning it up now and being tidy as you go makes the process easier and the results so much nicer. Allow the Crystal Clay to dry for at least 2 hours, or until it is hard to the touch.

STEP 12:

Read the resin instructions for safety concerns regarding the Nunn Design Resin.

When I work with resin, I always:

- Place a large plastic bag over my work surface and tape it down.
- I make sure I have ventilation in my workroom.
- I wear gloves.
- I wear glasses (readers because I can't see anymore. Plus it protects my eyes!).
- I have a pile of wet wipes handy.

This is a great blog post that covers **20 Habits for Successfully Using Nunn Design 2-Part Epoxy Resin**. Even if you are a seasoned resin mixer, this might be worth a read.

STEP 13:

Place one cup (included in the Nunn Design Resin Kit) onto your table. For curing

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purposes, it is very important that the resin be an exact 1 to 1 ratio of Part A and Part B. I suggest getting your eyes level with the resin so you can see the lines on the measuring cup. Pour Part A of your resin kit up to the ½ fluid ounce mark on your measuring cup. Pour Part B of your resin kit into the same cup until it is filled to the 1 fluid ounce mark. It is important to pour Part A first and then Part B. It is some chemical thing about the part A being heavier or something.

STEP 14:

Set your timer for 2 minutes. Using the stir stick from your kit (a popsicle stick or coffee stir stick will work great too), slowly and carefully stir your resin scraping the sides as you stir. Stir for the full 2 minutes. After 2 minutes, scrape both sides of your stir stick on the edge of your resin filled cup.

STEP 15: (image 27)

To colorize the resin, pour the clear mixed resin into a separate mixing cup up to the 1 tsp mark line. To create a red resin, add a toothpick of the Castin' Craft Opaque Pigment Red to the mixed resin. The opaque red pigment is very potent, so you will only need a tiny bit to colorize the fully mixed batch of resin. It is always best to add too little pigment and to add more if needed. Mix the resin fully until the red color is consistent.

TIP: When adding Castin Crafts Opaque Pigments to Nunn Design Resin, the pigment color amount cannot be greater than 10% of the resin. If it is, it will effect the resin's ability to cure properly.

STEP 16: (image 28-32)

Drizzle a small amount of colorized resin onto the surface of your Crystal Clay impression. Using a stir stick or toothpick drag the resin over to the side edges. You can also use the stir stick to remove excess resin. Once the resin is applied to the surface of the Crystal Clay, place the bezel on a small business card to cure. I like using business cards because it makes it easy to pick-up the ornament and move it around while it is curing.

STEP 17:

Using a wet-wipe, clean off any resin that might be on the sides of the bezel. Let the resin cure for 12-14 hours. It will be hard to the touch, but resin continues to cure for the next 72 hours. Place a small plastic container over the bezels to prevent dust from getting into the resin as it cures

STEP 18: (image 33)

Add a ribbon or ornament hook to finish off the ornament. Lovely!

SHOP THE SUPPLIES!

- Nunn Design Bezels
- Nunn Design Ornament Hook
- Easy Mold Silicone Putty
- Brass Metal Stamping
- Epoxy Clay-Crystal Clay
- Nunn Design 2-Part Resin Kit
- Castin' Craft Opaque Pigment-Red