



“Pagoda” Box

This beautiful box, with no two sides alike, uses a texture mat available from PMCC Senior Instructor Marlynda Taylor.

Supplies

The Basics

Teflon sheet
Clay Roller/Slats
Badger Balm
Water and Brush
Scalpel
Ruler

Clay

PMC Standard
Our box weighs 62g.
PMC3 Paste
PMC3 Syringe

Other Tools

“ Calligraphy Background ” Texture Mat
(See below for details on purchasing)
Square Pattern cutter set (PCSSQ)
Tissue Slicing Blade (SB)
Soft Sander Oval (SSO-X0)

Finishing

Wire or Brass Brush
Tumbler/Shot
2” x2” Ultra Polishing Pad (ULTPOLPAD)
Shine Brite Polishing Compound (SHNBRT)
Agate Burnisher (BTSTONE2)

Step-by-Step

*As with any box construction, it is very important to let each stage dry well before moving to the next step.

1) Lightly coat surface of roller, hands, and texture mat with Badger Balm.

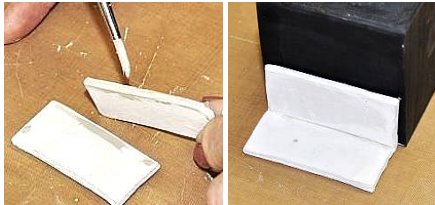
2) Condition each piece of clay before using by gently kneading and compressing into a smooth ball. Flatten the ball and roll out to a depth of one slat (three cards). Lay a smaller piece of clay on the Calligraphy texture mat and roll to one slat thick.

3) Using the Tissue Slicing Blade, cut one piece $1 \frac{3}{4}$ " x $1 \frac{1}{4}$ " and two pieces $1 \frac{3}{4}$ " x 1" from the smooth clay. Cut one piece from the textured clay that is $1 \frac{3}{4}$ " x $1 \frac{1}{4}$ ".



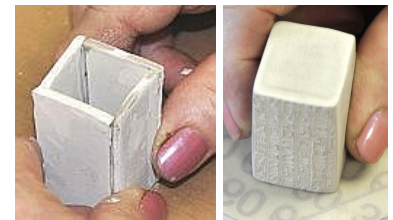
4) Cut two pieces clay from the textured piece that measure $1 \frac{1}{16}$ " x $1 \frac{1}{8}$ ". Cut one of these into three unequal pieces (they will adorn the sides of the box.) Cut two more small squares ($\frac{5}{8}$ " x $\frac{5}{8}$ ") from the textured clay. Let all these pieces dry.

5) Flat pieces retain their shape best when handled as little as possible before they are dry. I usually cut them and leave them on the Teflon sheet and place on the sheet on top of the dehydrator to begin the process. If they start to warp, flip them over. When they are getting a little stiff, a rubber block placed on the top will help keep them flat. The rubber block will extend the drying time, but the pieces will be flatter.



6) Begin construction by attaching one plain narrow piece and one plain wide piece together. First dampen the edges with water, brush on a small amount of paste the length of the seam and join together. Hold the upright piece for a minute or so to make the joint secure. A rubber block makes a good prop to support the upright side. Repeat with the other plain narrow piece and with the wider, textured piece. Make sure you join them so that these two sections will fit together to form a box. Run a bead of syringe clay lengthwise along each seam on what will be the inside of the box. Lightly tap into place with a wet brush, compressing clay into the seam as you go. Let these two pieces dry.

7) When these two side sections are dry, attach them using the same process, wet with a little water, brush on paste, and join the pieces together. As soon as the joint has set, run a bead of syringe clay along it on the inside and compress and smooth with a damp brush. Let dry.



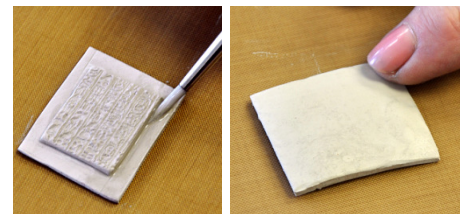
8) Sand the ends of the piece so that the bottom and top pieces will fit cleanly.

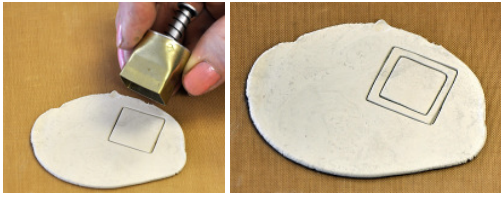
9) To create the bottom of the box, roll out a piece of clay one slat (three cards) thick. Wet the bottom edge of the box with water, brush on a little paste, and set on wet clay. Cut off the extra clay with the tissue slicing blade. Let dry completely. When seam is set, run a bead of syringe clay around the inside base and compress and smooth with a damp brush.



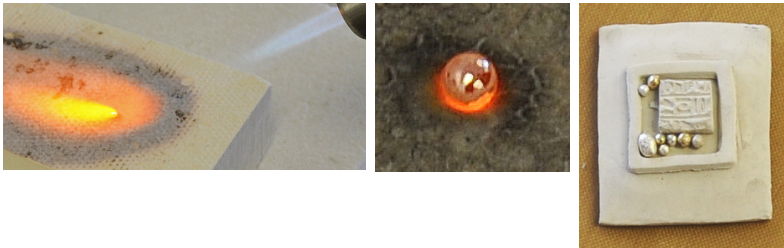
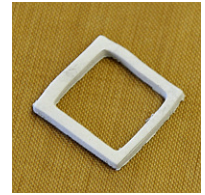
10) Cut a piece of clay approximately $1 \frac{3}{8}$ " by $1 \frac{5}{8}$ ". This piece will be the lid. When working with a piece this small, very tiny differences in measurement make a big difference. It may be better to set your box upside down on the fresh clay to determine the size of the lid. The lid should extend beyond the box at least $\frac{1}{4}$ ". The side overhang should be a little more than that of the front and back. Cut out the lid with the Tissue Slicing Blade.

11) Roll out a small piece of clay one slat thick on the texture mat. With the Tissue Slicing Blade, cut a $1 \frac{1}{8}$ " square. Center this piece and attach to the top of the lid with paste. While the clay is still a little pliable, flip the piece over and gently rub the ends and corners in a downward motion to shape the lid into the familiar Pagoda shape.





12) To create the lip for the lid to set on, roll out a small piece of clay, cut a square using the largest square in the Pattern Cutter Set (PCSSQ). Cut out another “square within a square” using the next smallest cutter. Let this dry and attach it to the inside center of the lid with paste. This piece fits down into the box and keeps the lid from sliding off. Fit a tiny square of textured clay inside of this piece.



13) Make four small balls of clay by torch firing some very tiny pieces of scrap PMC. They will pull up into tiny ball shapes. Attach these, with paste, to the inside to the lid next to the small decorative square.

14) Roll out a small piece of clay. With the tissue slicing blade, cut out a piece, two slats thick and a little bit smaller all around, than the bottom of the box. Let dry and attach to the bottom with paste. This forms a small platform at the base. Clean up the edges with a wet brush.



15) Allow the box to completely dry. Clean up the surface for firing and refine the inside of box.

16) Attach the textured squares to the box as desired. I attached one small square to the inside bottom of the box. Brush each piece with paste, attach, and clean up the edges with wet brush.

17) Let the entire piece dry completely. Make a final clean-up and fire. Place a very small amount of thermal fiber inside the box to help retain its shape. Do not pack it as that will cause it to bow out when the box shrinks during firing. Lay the lid, right side up, on a piece of fire blanket to support the upturned edges.

18) After firing, brush the box all over with a steel brush. Tumble for at least an hour with a drop or two of Shine Brite Burnishing Compound in the water. Remove and burnish with an Agate Burnisher as desired.

19) Polish with a 2”x2” Micro Polishing Pad.

Additional views:



***To get the Calligraphy Texture mat, contact Marlynda Taylor: marlyndam2@att.net.**