



Polymer clay decorative bottles



*Recycle
everyday
glass bottles*

by covering them with Sculpey[®] III Polymer Clay to create one-of-a-kind decorative bottles that reflect individual personalities and interests. Customize bottles by making unique stoppers — turn bottles into people, animals ... you decide!

Objectives

Students will...

- Learn how to design and model their own unique decorative bottle using polymer clay techniques
- Focus on self expression, plus sculptural techniques and design elements essential to working on a curved surface



Instructions

1. Work the clay with your hands until it is soft and pliable. Roll out a sheet about $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick. Use scrap clay as a base layer, then cover with any color or pattern you create. You can also build your design in steps, adding clay and rebaking each time. Be aware that too much baking may darken some colors.
2. Cover the vial completely with your design, including the bottom and around the top lip. The design can be texturized, but make sure the clay is pressed firmly onto the glass. Try not to trap any air bubbles; if you do, prick them with a pin, press out the air, then smooth over the hole.

NOTE: Do not attempt to cover plastic bottles or vials — cover glass only!

3. If you plan on customizing your vial with a stopper for the top, wait until after the vial is finished and baked before you begin to mold it. This way, the clay won't stick together while you're working. Also, the clay may shrink during the baking process, so you may want to make the stopper slightly oversized and sand it to fit after all of the parts have been baked.
4. Bake the vial at the recommended time and temperature — be sure to check the package for specific directions. Figure baking time according to the thickest part of your design; ball-shaped stoppers may need extra time. Always remove the stoppers from the vial before baking, or it may stick directly to the vial. Allow the vial and stopper to cool slowly at room temperature.

NOTE: Do NOT bake plastic bottle caps — clay can be molded over caps, but caps must be removed before baking. Once clay is baked, the piece may be placed back onto the plastic cap.



Now get creative. The finished vial can be carved, sanded, polished, painted, or varnished to add detail or luster. More clay can always be added and rebaked for more complex designs.

When working with polymer clays, additional precautions should be taken. Please refer to manufacturer's package for additional information.



Materials list

- Small glass bottles or vials (SB15256)
- Bars of Sculpey III® Polymer Clay in assorted colors (9719130)
- Wooden rolling pins (WA20635)
- Sandpaper [9714789(B)]

Additional materials

- Clay modeling tools
- Popsicle sticks or toothpicks for shaping and modeling clay
- Dust masks