



The Mastery of *Bear Making* Perfect Clay Noses

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Create Perfect Clay Noses!

Hi there, I'm Helen Gleeson, Bear Artist at Bare Cub Designs.

I have been creating bears for many years. I have struggled with many different aspects of bear making, things like ladder stitching, sculpting eyes, and of course- noses.

So I decided it was time to **stop making bears or start enjoying the process**. After all Bear Making is a past-time that you want to enjoy, right?

It helped to have a luxe kit & organised patterns, but the process had "holes" in it. **I started to replace some of the techniques I had learnt to address my frustrations.**

First improvement required. - Noses. I know we have all made bears only to ruin them with a poorly crafted nose. Now I'm not saying to never sew a nose again (through the clay nose can be "wrapped" with thread) I'm just offering you a great alternative for you to try.

By making your clay nose, you can ensure it's **perfect every time** - or you just don't use it. When it is perfect you attach it to your bear.

Happy Stitching!



The clays are available in a range of colours from primary, pastel, glitter and even pearl luster. Shop around and build a collection of colours. You can mix two colours together for the perfect shade, or paint the desired colour once finished. I use a brown and a black mixing these together to create a **"dark Bark" colour**.

The following instructions are suitable for Sculpy and Fimo, make sure you read the directions on the clay you purchase.

Step 1

Cut a piece of clay off the block. As a guide a 4" miniature bear will take about a 6mm ball. An 8" bear will need about 10mm ball and so on. You need to make the proportions of your design flattering to your bear, You do not want him to look like he has a big blob on his head.

Roll the clay into a rough ball.



Step 2

Look at the ball and compare the size to your bears face, Cut thought the clay at the centre of the ball, if you feel it is too big cut more than 1/2 off the back. The clay should now resemble the shape of a nose for your bear.

Step 3

Place the clay on your index finger. Using your other index finger and thumb, GENTLY shape the top and bottom of the nose, then from side to side. Gently shape the dome of the nose to a smooth finish.

Step 4

Place the nose in front of your bears face to check you are happy. If you are not, either continue to shape or roll into a ball and start again! Set aside. At this point you skip steps 5 go straight to step 6 bake and superglue onto your bear, however I now go to step 5.



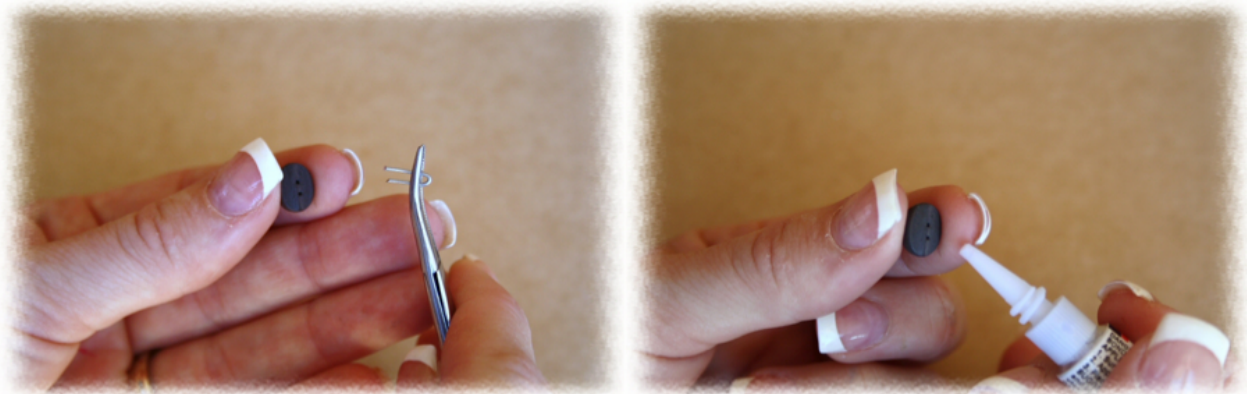
Step 5

Using a thin gauge, florist wire or beading wire and a set of small forceps, make a little U shaped loop. Using cutters, snip the wire to create the loop. Holding the nose, dome side down in the palm of your hand, pick up the U shaped loop in the forceps and very lightly push into the clay being careful not to change the shape. Holding the nose by the loop with the forceps check again you are happy with shape, this is the last chance to perfect the shape.



Step 6

Check the directions on the packet, Sculpy and Fimo requires to be heat set. A nose this size only takes aprox 2 minutes. (Up to 5 for a larger nose to suit a 20" bear.) You can use a oven. I use a small toaster oven outside, as they can give off fumes. If using a fry pan, or baking tray put some alfoil down first, you don't want your nose to stick. Preheat the oven at about 80- 100 degrees Celsius. Check the instructions on your packet. Put the nose (forceps and all) in the oven till hot. When you touch the clay you should be able to feel the heat inside (be careful not to burn yourself and do not touch the metal forceps. Once you are satisfied that the nose has been heated, you can turn off the oven and allow to cool. Once the nose is cold it will be hard.



Step 7

Remove the metal loop from the back, as the clay is not designed to stick to metal. Add a tiny drop of superglue to the holes. Be careful not to get glue on the front or sides of the clay nose. Insert the wire loop back into the holes. Your nose is now finished. To attach to your bear follow the same steps as for eyes. Loop sinew through the wire loop. Thread one strand then the other through the bears face, holding the nose and applying pressure, to the back of the head and tie off, or use my "button method" and tie off inside the head, before closing. The "button method" allows you to sink/s the eye, and nose is covered off in the "Mink Masterclass" and the "Guides Collection"

Your bears nose is now perfect! – Every time!



Continue enhancing your bear making with more of my bear making techniques, tips and tricks. Visit courses.barecubdesigns.com