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Bread: Creating a Floured Effect

Creating a realistic floured effect on miniature polymer clay bread is really a lot simpler to achieve than most people realise. As it is one of the questions that I am asked most, I thought it would be best to explain my method by putting together this easy 'how-to' page.

By following the steps, and in a matter of minutes, you can turn plain bread into something a whole lot more rustic in appeal.

You will need: 'Baked' miniature polymer clay bread. White soft pastels. Flat matte varnish or lacquer. Paintbrush. A can of hairspray (or liquid artists pastel fixative in an airbrush set-up). Wooden lolly stick or similar and Blu-tack (the sticky stuff that you use for putting up posters).

How-to: Fix your piece of miniature bread to the lolly stick with Blu-tack, this makes handling the bread much easier throughout the steps and is essential for not getting your hands covered in sticky hairspray! Scribble with the white pastel on a piece of scrap paper to build up a good amount of powder. Paint onto your bread, with the matte varnish, where you would like the flour to be and then pick up the pastel powder with a dry fingertip and press down onto the wet varnish.

Take care at this stage not to smudge or move your finger in any other direction on the bread, you want to 'pat' the 'flour' on, not rub or smooth. Keep repeating with the varnish and flour until you have covered all of the required areas and leave to dry.

Once thoroughly dry, take your 'bread-on-a-stick' to a well ventilated area and spray liberally with hairspray (or artists fixative). Don't worry if it appears that some of the 'flour' has disappeared into the wet hairspray (see right and bottom right photos of before and after spraying) - it will re-appear once dry! Once the hairspray has dried you can remove the bread from its stick - the flour will smudge if you touch it while wet!



...And then your floured bread is ready to display as required!

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