

Clay Gnome

Online video tutorial: <https://youtu.be/Yu2fMwShvQE>



Kit includes: 1 pound of clay, toothpick, a small mat and paint.

*You will also need a small cup of water.

Directions

To begin tap your clay on your mat on each side to bring it to life. The best way to tear your clay is to twist. Twist slightly over half your piece of clay. Set one piece aside (this piece will be used for the additional parts of the gnome) and with the other piece make into a round ball. This ball does not have to be perfect because you will smooth it later on.



Next make a pinch pot. You will make a pinch pot by pressing your thumb in the center. Using the same hand pinch around to create a pot. Use your other hand to stabilize the ball. This creates an upside down pot and this will be your gnomes body. You can make the gnomes body as tall as you want by pushing inside the pot upwards.



Tap the pot down on your mat and use your hands to create a gnome body shape.



Take a small amount of water on your fingers (not too much or you will end up with a sticky mess). Use your fingers to smooth the body out. Press quite firmly to make it nice and smooth.

The next step is to make two little feet. Pull two pieces of the same size of clay from the piece you set aside. Roll each piece into a smooth ball. Press your thumb into each ball creating an indent.



Where you place the feet you are going to wet and score using the tooth pick. **Score** means roughing up the clay by running the toothpick back and forth which creates a rough surface.



Take one foot and score the clay where you imprinted your thumb print. Next wet it and press your two scored pieces together. Repeat this step with your second foot. Flatten out the feet so the gnome sits flat on the ground.



After you have your second foot on flip over the gnome and use your toothpick to put your initials inside the gnome body. Adding your initials ensures your gnome makes it back to you after it is baked in the kiln (clay pot oven) at Fun Time Pottery.

Take a piece of your clay you set aside to create the hat. Roll the piece of clay and give it a tap which creates a flat end. Stick your thumb in the flat end to create a pinch pot. Pull the opposite side of the pinch pot up to create a gnome pointed hat shape. You can bend the point over, or make it wider at the bottom. Place the hat on the gnomes body to determine if it needs to be adjusted to fit the gnomes body.



Place the hat on the gnomes body and use a small amount of water on your fingers to smooth out the hat. When you are happy with the way the hat looks use a small amount of water and place in the bottom part of the hat and set it on the gnome body. Remove the hat and you will see the water marks. This is where you score. Press the hat on the gnomes body nice and firmly.



Using a small amount of water on your fingertips smooth everything out on the gnome. This takes away your finger prints.

Take a piece of the clay you've set aside and create a nose. Lightly wet one side of the nose and wet where you are going to place the nose. Next score the side of the nose you wet and score the spot where you want to place the nose. Tuck a small part of the nose under the hat. Press the nose lightly to ensure the nose will stay in place.



When your nose is in place use your toothpick to poke two nostril holes. If you make a large nose please poke holes in it as too large of a nose could possibly explode in the kiln (clay oven).



Take a piece of clay that you have set aside to create a beard. Flatten the clay. Use your toothpick to draw a triangle, this will be the beard. Using your toothpick cut out the beard.



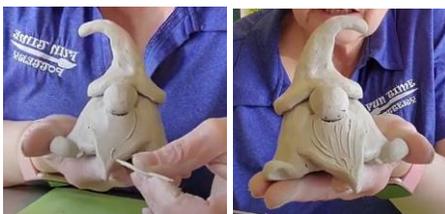
On the top of the beard cut out a piece for the gnomes nose so it fits in nicely. Place the beard under the gnomes nose ensuring the beard will fit. If not make adjustments. You don't want too large of a beard as it can break off easily.



Lightly wet the area where the beard will stick and wet the back of the beard. Using your toothpick score the wet area and score the wet area on the back of the beard.



Place the beard on the area where you have wet and scored directly under the gnomes nose. Take a small amount of water on your fingers and smooth out the edges on the beard to make it nice and smooth. Using your toothpick draw lines on the beard to create hair. Turn up the bottom of the beard by gently moving the tip up.



Next you will create a hat belt. Roll a piece of clay nice and long by using the palm of your hand. Wrap the long piece of clay around the hat to see the thickness. If the long piece is too thick this is the time to make it thinner. Wrap the long piece around again. It is okay for the long piece to overlap. Lightly wet and score the belt and wet and score the area where the belt will be placed on the hat. If the belt is too long cut the tips off with a toothpick.



Additional options: If you would like to add a buckle to the belt on the gnome take a piece of clay flatten it out and cut it in the shape of a square. Next wet, score and stick into place. You also have the option of adding a mustache.



When your gnome is complete. Cover the gnome with the cling wrap the clay came in. Dry the gnome slowly to decrease cracking. **Important Note:** Please allow the gnome to dry for two weeks.



Once the gnome has dried for two weeks you have the option of painting the gnome.

Drop off your painted gnome at **Fun Time Pottery, 535 34th Street, Brandon, Manitoba** and they will bake it for you!