

Materials List

Bisque Puzzler Molds: ClayPuzzling.com

BP309 Small Globe
BP308 Medium Globe
BP307 Large Globe
BP332 Small Clay Pot
BP333 Medium Clay Pot
BP345 Large Clay Pot

Clay: Continental Clay

Low-Fire Moist White

Brushes\Tools: ClayPuzzling.com

PT-1 Puzzler Press Tool
Shimpo Clay Extruder

Royal & Langnickel Brush Mfg.

RSET-POT1 Potter's Select Basic Kit
R1325-1 Bristle Round
R1325-5 Bristle Round
R1325-10 Bristle Round
R1425-1 Bristle Long Bright
R1425-5 Bristle Long Bright
R1425-10 Bristle Long Bright
R2595-10/0 Aqualon Liner
A-2 Palette Knife

Colors: Mayco

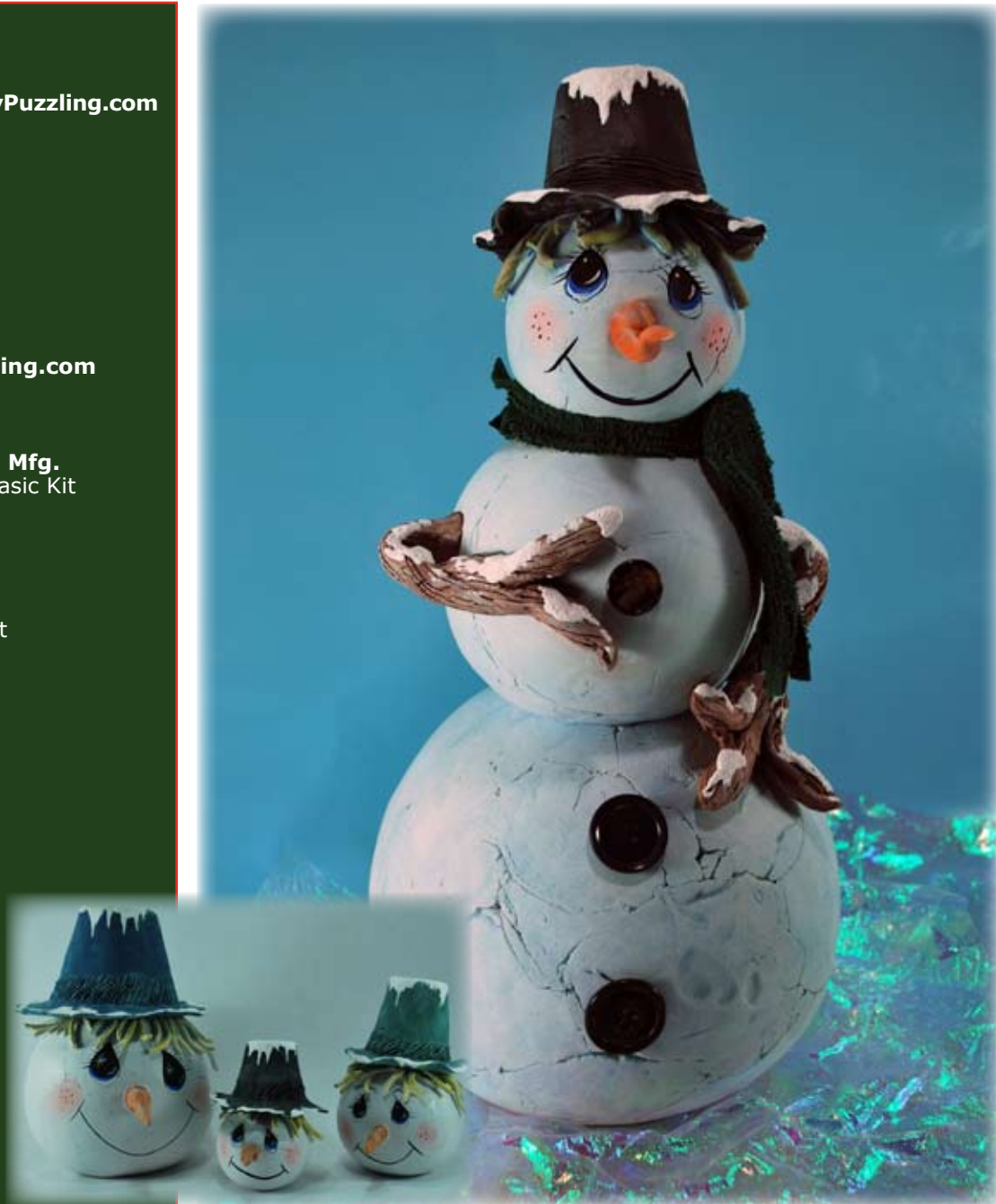
SS-135 White
SS-237 Dark Brown
SS-192 Light Taupe
SS-057 Accent Green
SS-247 Bright Yellow
SS-137 Jet Black
SS335 Rich Blue
SS-176 Christmas Red
SS-339 Navy
SS-211 Orange Rust
TL-112 Blue Smoke
AC-523 Non-Fired Snow
AC-514 Matte Spray

Miscellaneous:

Flashlight
Soft cloth for antiquing
Green fabric for scarf
Old buttons
Glue
Sponge

Contact the Artist

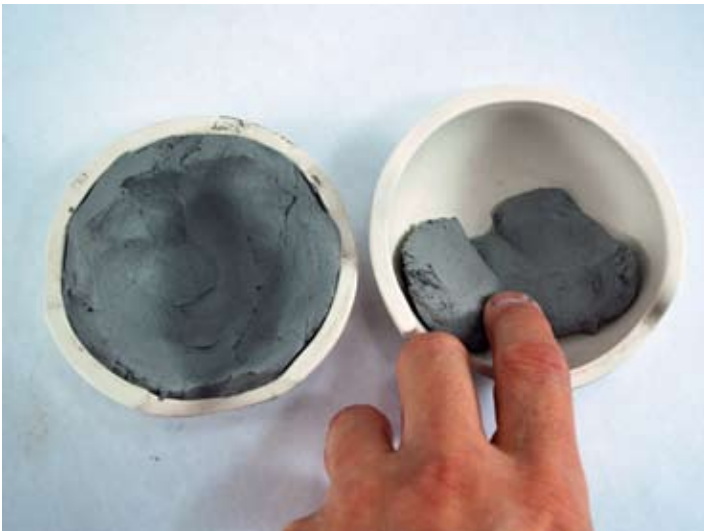
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Create these fun snowball friends using moist clay and Bisque Puzzler Molds and enjoy them throughout the winter. Construct the heads alone or stack them to make a full body.

Step 1 Open the Bisque Puzzler molds and remove any dust or debris using a damp sponge.

Step 2 Pull balls of clay from the block of moist clay and flatten them between your fingers to around a quarter inch thickness.



Step 3 Press the flattened pieces of clay in each half of the mold, right up to the seam line. Each piece of clay should slightly overlap and be pressed firmly together. The clay should all blend and lines where pieces of clay meet should not be visible.



Step 4 Add a coil of clay around the edge of one half of the mold. This coil will be used to connect the two halves.



Step 5 Place the two mold halves together. It's best to wrap your fingers around the inner edge of the mold half being lifter so as it's turned over, the clay can't fall out (your fingers will hold it in place). Gently pull fingers out and let the mold halves fall together.

Step 6 Lift the mold and attach the Velcro strap firmly around the mold.



Step 7 Use the Puzzler Press Tool to reach inside the mold and press the coil of clay between the two mold halves, attaching the two parts. Use a flashlight to see inside if needed. The clay coil should blend into the rest of the interior clay. If a visible "bump" of the clay coil shows, more pressing needs to be done.

Step 8 Remove the Velcro strap and wiggle each mold half and pull them apart. Feel the clay and if it's firm enough to stand, remove from mold. If it's too soft, let it stay in one half of the mold to firm up.



Step 9 Once removed from the mold, use the metal rib from the pottery tool set to smooth any seam lines and imperfections. Leave some lines in the clay since snowballs are not perfect.

Step 10 Place the clay shapes on an absorbent surface like several layers of newspaper or small sheet of drywall. If stacking the globes for the full snow friend, stack when shapes are firm enough.



Step 11 Extrude stands of clay about three inches long from the clay extruder with the spaghetti attachment. Place the clay coils around the top of the head. Create a slip mixture with clay and water if needed to hold the clay coils in place.



Step 14 Create hats using the clay pot molds in the same manner the clay globes were made. After removing the clay pots from the molds, pinch the top of the pots to flare out clay, creating the rims of the hats. Place the hats on the heads, but do not attach. It's much easier to paint separately and glue together at the end.

Step 15 Allow all parts to dry thoroughly. Use a damp sponge or brush to smooth any sharp edges or imperfections on the clay shapes.

Step 16 Fire to the appropriate cone for the clay used. With the low-fire clay used in the samples, they were fired to cone 04.

Step 17 Using the bristle #10 round, basecoat all white areas of the snow friend and hair with White. Allow to dry and antique white areas with Blue Smoke. Wipe back leaving color mainly in the crevices.

Step 18 Use the #1 and 5 Bristle Long Bright to basecoat the arms of the snow friend. Drybrush the arms using the #1 and 5 Bristle Round with Light Taupe. Use the #5 Bristle Long Bright to drybrush the hair with Bright Yellow. Paint the nose with Orange Rust using brush of choice. Basecoat hats with colors of choice (Jet Black, Accent Green and Navy were used on those pictured).

Step 19 Use the #10 Bristle Round to lightly dry-brush White over everything to highlight. Lightly drybrush Christmas Red on the cheeks and soften with White if needed.

Step 20 Paint the iris of the eyes with Rich Blue. Use the 10/0 Aqualon Liner and Jet Black to paint the lashes and pupil of the eyes and line the mouth. Add highlights to the eyes with White.

Step 21 Use the Palette Knife to apply Non-Fired Snow randomly on the hat and arms.



Step 12 Roll a small coil in your hand and bring to a point to construct each carrot nose. Poke a hole in the clay head where the nose will be placed, add a little slip and position nose. Carve a fine outline for the eyes and mouth using the wooden sculpting tool in the basic tool kit.



Step 13 If making the full snow friend, roll coils for the arms and "fingers." Use the wooden sculpting tool to scratch texture and lines into the arms. Poke a hole in each side of the middle snowball, add slip and press arms into openings. Position arms as desired.