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Sculpey Holiday Ribbons

Design by Syndee Holt - Project courtesy of sculpey.com

Materials Needed:

- Premo! Sculpey in assorted colors: For this project we used Cadmium Red, Purple, Gold, Green, Orange and Turquoise.
- Sculpey Clay Gun - use either a circle pattern or half circle for the coils and a medium ribbon for the long ribbons.
- Heat-tolerant glitter
- Index cards or pieces of stiff paper, scissors and tape

Note: If you don't have a clay gun, you can use the noodle setting on a pasta machine or simply roll long "snakes" of clay as evenly as possible.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. We used pieces of paper varying from 4 to 6 inches square to create the cones for the molds for the ribbons. We taped the edge together with regular tape. The tape does well in the oven for about 6 bakings, but by then, the paper holds its own shape. We use large index cards for work surfaces in all our clay work, so we recycled some of our messier work cards for cone duty.
2. Extrude your clay in the shape you like the best. We experimented with several shapes, but decided we liked the half circle the best. One full barrel of clay will yield one ribbon. Don't worry about cleaning out the barrel too much between colors, we make about 6 of each color before switching colors.
3. Once you have an extruded length of clay, start wrapping it from the bottom of the cone to the top, creating a small loop of clay at the top end to accept your wire hanger.



4. Dust lightly with glitter if you wish. (we applied glitter in a separate work area, so we don't have glitter in our clay work for the next three months!)

5. Bake as directed on your clay package and allow to cool before removing from the paper mold.



LONG RIBBONS:

1. We have some wooden dowels that are 1 inch in diameter and 14 inches long that we used as the molds for these. Extrude a flat ribbon and wrap around the wood dowel. Overlap the end to help hold it to the wood.

2. Dust with glitter, if desired, and bake according to package directions. Allow the clay to cool on the dowel and then just simply twist lightly and the clay will release from the dowel. We use these pieces to drape over the top of the limbs and to help disguise the light wires, we even used colored wire to create our wire hangers in contrasting colors to the ribbon coils. Storage of the ribbons is easy - just put them all in a box.

