Handmade cufflinks

Andyskinner.org





These will be great for fathers day! A very cost effective way of producing cuff links to sell in your studio.

Supplies All materials used are available from Country Love Ceramics



I place earthenware clay on a tea towel between two tiles. roll yourself a slab of clay. Note: rolling between the tiles will give your slab an even thickness.



2 Lay a sheet of cling film over the surface of the clay. Press a square cutter through the clay to form your cufflink face.



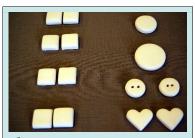
3 The cling film will naturally bevel the edges as the cutter passes through. Repeat this over the entire surface of the clay.



4 Remove clingfilm and leave clay to dry for three hours to make removal easier. Gently remove cufflink faces from clay slab.



5 Once dried (approx 3 days) smooth the edges with a green ware file and bisque fire them. Note: I have often fired these on a glaze firing of 1020 without any problems.



6 They are now ready to decorate by you or your customers! I have made some buttons and tag alongs with the excess clay.



7 Here 5 year old Amy has used a striking colour combination for her cufflinks. Abstract expressionism at its best!!



8 For this set I have used a hole punch on water slide decal paper to create polka dots.



9 Ceramic fingerprint cuff links are another option.

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- Silver clay keepsakes
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- Glass painting
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10 Attach the cuff link backings after glaze firing with a strong glue such as Araldite which is available from most hardware stores. If using acrylic paint attach them after gloss varnishing.

For those of you without kilns there is an option using Plus air dry modeling clay which is extremely strong when dry.

<u>Americana acrylic paint</u> can be used to decorate these, finish them with Americana Gloss Varnish for a glaze like finish.

Experiment with different shape cutters, round and oval also look great!

I would price these around the 10 pounds mark as a paint your own option. You could offer them as a free give away if a customer spends x amount on pottery.

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