

TIPS
If you're impatient you can try baking them in a warm oven

DIY CLAY DECORATIONS

Clever poppy.



Why not make some beautiful Christmas decorations to celebrate the festive season? They're easy to make, so you can get the kids involved - they'll love getting their hands into the clay and being creative with cookie cutters.



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INSTRUCTIONS

- Take a small piece of clay and roll into a ball. Then flatten it to about 6mm thick.
TIP: You can make the decorations thicker, but they'll take longer to dry. They can also be thinner, but they may break.
- Cut the clay into a festive shape like a tree, a star or a house. Add a hole at the top.
TIP: Make the hole a bit bigger so there is enough room to thread through a double thickness of twine.
- Dip your fingers in water, then smooth out the top and sides of the decoration.
- If you want to engrave designs on the decorations, do it now while they are still soft. Use your tools to add lines, dots and shapes. You can also use the stamp pad (with no ink) to add festive words.
- Leave the decorations to dry for at least 24 hours, you might need 36. Once they are dry, they will go totally white and have no bend in them.
- If you want to add colour, use the pens to draw designs and fill in blocks of colour. This part is really fun! Make sure you pump the pens and test them to get the colour flowing on a piece of paper first, so you get a nice finish on the decorations.
- Lastly, feed twine through the hole to create loops to hang the decorations with.

YOU WILL NEED

- Air dry clay - I used the Jovi brand in white
- A smooth surface
- A knife and skewer to shape the clay - I used a pack of clay tools by Sculpey
- A rolling pin
- A small bowl of water
- Twine
- For decorating: you can use a stamp set and pens (I used Posca and sharpie pens)