



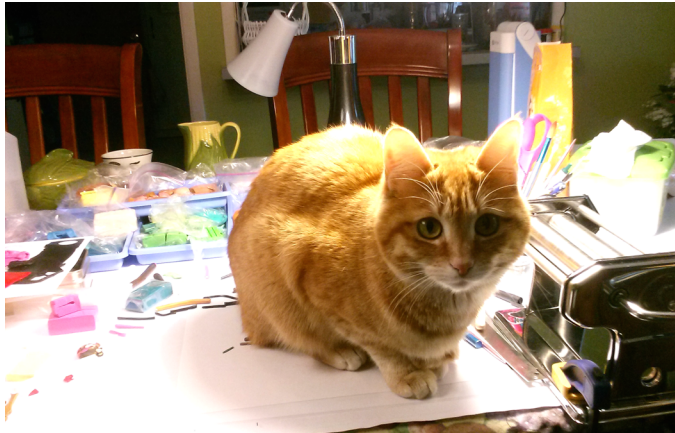
MATRYOSHKA DOLL CHARM TUTORIAL

created by Maria Jam Brown at Blonde Crow Studio

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This tutorial does not show how to make the face cane or the flower canes I used- I wasn't planning ahead when I made those! There are several excellent, simple, free tutorials out there from which to choose if you don't know how to make face or flower canes. I recommend creating or gathering these before you make this charm, or wing it and make your own faces and decorations as you go. It's completely up to you! Embellishments such as beads and glitter would be beautiful, too- just make sure they're embedded well and can withstand the heat of curing the clay.



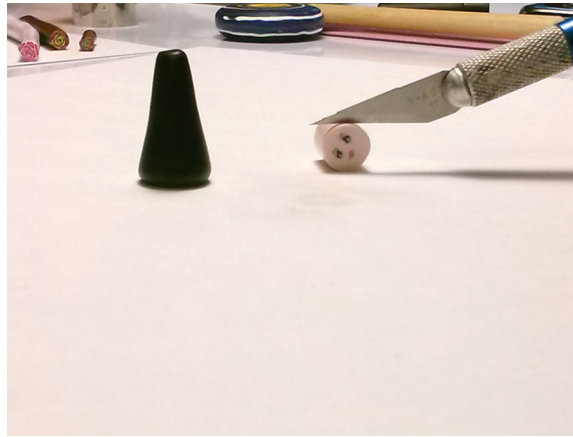
Supplies and Tools I used:

- A few ounces of Premo! polymer clay in various colors
- Liquid polymer clay
- Pearl Ex powder in Flamingo Pink
- Craft wire
- Cat hair (optional)
- Pasta machine dedicated to clay use, or hand roller
- Craft knife
- Wire cutters
- Round-nose pliers
- Kemper circle cutters in varying sizes
- Tissue blade
- Cotton swab (for Pearl Ex powder application)

You can, of course, use any polymer clay you like and any decorations you like. Your imagination is the only limitation!

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Roll a ball of the doll's dress color approximately 0.5 inch (1.3 cm) wide. Flatten and shape into a cone approximately 1.0 inch (2.5 cm) long. Cut a slice from the face cane you've created (or make a simple face on some flesh-colored clay) and place it on the small end of the cone. If the face looks a little too big for the cone body, you did it right. Matryoshka doll faces are traditionally a little larger than scale with big eyes, a rosebud mouth, eyelashes, and rosy cheeks! (We'll get to the cheeks later.)



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Use your pasta machine to flatten a small sheet of the doll's scarf color. Cut a circle approximately 1.0 inch (2.5 cm), and then cut another 0.5 inch (1.3 cm) circle as shown in the photo. Gently push the scarf in place around the face and around the rest of the head. Trim any excess scarf and smooth down onto the cone.



Roll two small balls of the scarf color, shape into a teardrop and gently flatten. Place these under the doll's chin as in the photo- these are the scarf ends. Bend some wire into an eye loop at one end and a simple hook on the other about 2/3 the size of your charm. Use a craft knife (the sharper the better- less distortion) to make a cut directly down into the top of the charm. Wiggle your knife in the clay to make a slightly wider slit. Gently reshape charm if necessary.

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Place a drop of liquid polymer clay into the slit and then wiggle the wire hook down into the hole. Gently push down until only the eye loop is sticking out. Reshape the charm if necessary. Now decorate your Matryoshka doll charm, front and back and all over. Be creative! The last step before curing is to give your doll those traditional rosy cheeks by gently dabbing on a very little bit of PearlEx powder with a cotton swab. Cure in an oven to your clay manufacturer's instructions.



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I created these charms for a 'Charm Swap' at Clay Camp, an annual event held by the Northwest Polymer Clay Guild- nwpcg.org- of Seattle, Washington. Each year the challenge is different and this year I decided to make tiny, tiny Matryoshka dolls as my charms. (Each of these charms are less one inch tall.) Several people asked me how I put them together and so this tutorial was born. I hope this tutorial inspires you and is a starting point to create something beautiful of your own.

I'd like to thank my daughter, Lydia, for all of her help and lovely photographs that made this tutorial possible. And Penny, the cat, for her interest in the entire project.

Have fun!

- Maria

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