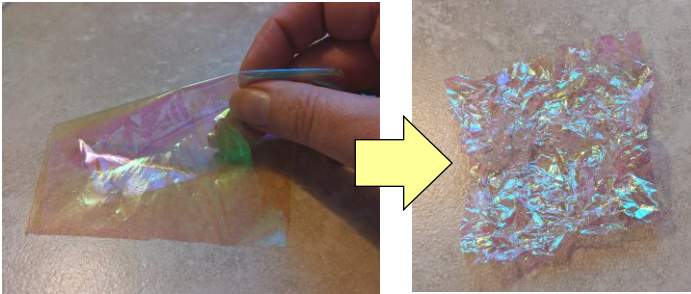


# September Opal Program Highlights by Maria Brown

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I demonstrated a few of my techniques for creating faux opals. Here is one of my techniques from that program. Start with some iridescent, transparent film, the cheap kind that's used for wrapping gift baskets. Crumple it up like you've had a really bad day.



Cut out your opal base of white clay and add a few drops of translucent liquid clay on it. Cut out that same shape from your crumpled iridescent film and lay it on top. Don't squish it down hard, just enough to get rid of any trapped air bubbles under the film. Then add a few more drops of translucent liquid clay and gently smear it to the edges.



Now sprinkle on a little of your favorite iridescent flake glitter. Don't use 'round' pieces or other shaped pieces of glitter- your opals will look fake. Use irregular flake glitter. You can get it at all the usual craft places. I got mine through AliExpress because I wanted a LOT and I could wait a few months for it.

Link to the glitter I used:  
<https://www.aliexpress.com/item/4000967489805.html?spm=a2g0s.9042311.0.0.33e94c4dSu6uN7>



Roll out a very, very, thin sheet of translucent clay and gently place that on top of the glitter layer. Get a deli sheet or a piece of plastic wrap and gently smooth it over the top layer of clay. If you want rounded edges on your opal, use the same cutter you used for your base and push down with the plastic wrap still on your opal. If you want a flat surfaced opal, take off the plastic wrap before you cut.



Cure your opals and *immediately* drop them in ice water after taking them out of the oven. This clears up cloudiness in your clay. If you really want the sparkle to really pop, use a layer of UV resin like I did for the opals in the photo below.

Link to the resin I use:  
<https://www.aliexpress.com/item/32916325408.html?spm=a2g0s.9042311.0.0.33e94c4dSu6uN7>

You can buy this same resin through Amazon but it's a fraction of the cost through the link above. You just have to wait a few weeks. Or a month. But the price difference is worth it to me.

If you want different colors of opals, change your base color and use some metallic flake glitter before the final layer of translucent clay. If you want to see the cool graphics of scary Australian animals and maps of the mines... well... you missed it. Make a note to tune in to our Zoom meetings so you don't miss anything else!

