



COOL TOOLS

Getting Started with the Ultimate Clay Extruder

Extruding works best with fresh clay. Use clay package of 16 to 28 grams for best results. Condition the fresh clay using the flexible clay recipe if you wish to have your extrusion flexible for knotting or weaving patterns when dry.

Method

Unscrew the end cap from the extruder (where the clay will come out). Insert the shape disc of your choice. Insert the rubber washer. Have this assembly ready at hand.

Turn the extruder handle to open the clay cylinder. Roll your clay into a cigar shape and insert into the cylinder end.

Screw the end cap with the shape assembly on the end of the extruder.

Hold the extruder up so it is straight, with the extruding end directly over the worksurface.

Turn the handle slowly as the clay extrudes to get a straight extrusion.

When all clay has extruded, use a needle tool to cut the end.

Cleanup

There is no waste when using the Ultimate Clay Extruder! All clay is recoverable and can be used again or made into paste.

After extruding, there will be a small amount of clay that needs to be cleaned from the end assembly. The best tool for this job is a Clay Shaper. Remove the cap end and lift out the rubber ring. Use the Clay Shaper to remove any bits stuck to the ring and then set aside. Remove the disc of clay that will be on the extruder plunger and place back in your lump clay stock. The bits that are left in the screw on cap threads should be removed by placing the tip of the Clay Shaper in the thread and turning the cap. Place these bits in your dry scraps or your paste container.

Before using the Ultimate Clay Extruder again, look the parts over and make sure there are no dry clay bits left that might interfere with a smooth extrusion. If you see any bits, remove them with a Clay Shaper and place them in your dry scraps container.

About Aluminum and Metal Clay

When dissimilar metals touch, there can be a corrosive reaction. This is the case if raw aluminum and silver clay are left in contact with each other. Do not leave your clay to dry on aluminum foil. Do not fire your pieces or dry them on aluminum foil. Do not use aluminum foil in your metal clay work in any way. Aluminum tools are safe to use if contact is brief.

The Ultimate Clay Extruder is Type III colored anodized aluminum which gives it makes the metal extra hard and affords a lifetime of protection from corrosion. Anodizing is the treatment done to aluminum to keep it from corroding in the elements. This tool is completely safe for use with metal clay. Even if metal clay is left in contact with the Ultimate Clay Extruder until it is dry, there will not be a reaction since the Ultimate Clay Extruder is permanently protected.

Flexible Clay (Same as Veneer Solution)

Roll a 28 or 25g package of PMC into a layer, spread 6 to 8 drops of glycerin over it, and fold it a few times. Roll the lump with a roller under a Ziploc bag until the clay regains its original consistency. The glycerin will keep the clay flexible even when it's dry. This is great for making links, textured bezels or anything else that you want to stay flexible. You can extrude a rope of this flexible material and knot it.

