

## PAPERCLAY MEZUZAH CASES

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### Overview:

Paperclay is an easy to use modeling material. It is easy on the hands; can be cut with a plastic knife if needed, although a small sharp knife works best. It is non-toxic. Tools that are used with Fimo or other polymer clays are perfect for paperclay. It dries completely in a few days, or the drying process can be speeded up by using an oven or an embossing heat tool. If necessary, the project can be done, start to finish, in two hours or less. Coloring is accomplished by a number of methods, depending on how dry the article is: watercolors, rubber stamp pads, markers.

### Materials:

- 1 package of Paperclay per 5 participants (Hobby Lobby, Michael's)
- 1 Ziploc bag to store odd pieces per person
- 1 test tube per person (American Science & Surplus – sciplus.com)
- Rollers (pvc pipe cut into 4" lengths, or rolling pins)
- Plastic table covers or place mats to work on
- Plastic wrap
- Small, sharp knives
- Cups for water

### Other materials to have available:

For coloring:

- Watercolor paints
- Pigment markers
- Rubber stamps

For embellishing:

- Rhinestones
- Beads
- White glue

For texturing:

- Texture plates & molds used for Polymer clay
- Talcum powder
- Fabrics and Lace

Other things that come in handy:

- Small sculpture tools, if available
- Heat tool or hair dryer
- Sealer – either a clear spray or Future Floor Wax

**Design elements to consider:**

1. Will the test tube be totally covered or will parts be left open, in order to see the scroll?  
If left open, consider coloring the clay first, since it may be visible.
2. Design a “plug” to close the test tube in order to protect the scroll.  
It can be decorative (see first cover on the left) or functional.
3. How to mount the finished piece – double sided tape or using hardware like screws or nail.  
If using hardware, pierce the piece before it dries.
4. Test tube material: plastic cannot be baked to dry clay; glass can.

**Method:**

1. Cut block of paperclay into five parts and distribute.
2. To roll, place part of clay in between plastic wrap and roll until area is large enough to cover test tube. It can be textured or imprinted at this point (see techniques)
2. If using molds, dust with talcum powder and a soft paint brush (see techniques). Use a small ball of clay, large enough to press into the mold. If necessary, slice part of it off the back, if there is too much.
3. To make paperclay stick to itself, use a bit of water and gently press pieces together. White glue can also be used, but water is easier.
4. Now it’s time to dry. See Techniques for oven times and temperatures. If the object is fairly thin, 15 minutes should be fine. Thicker ones will need 30 minutes. A quick way to dry just the surface is to use a heat tool, like those used for embossing. Do not use the oven to dry cases made with plastic test tubes.
5. Add color. If the paperclay is still fairly moist, stick with watercolors. If it is dry, then play with markers and rubber stamp ink pads.
6. Embellish with beads, sequins, rhinestones, or other similar materials. Glue might be needed.
7. Seal with a clear acrylic sealer when completely dry.
8. Most of all have fun playing and experimenting!

Any questions on how to run this workshop: Contact

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## INFORMATION ABOUT PAPERCLAY

From paperclay.com

Creative Paperclay is a non-toxic modeling material that can be sculpted, molded or shaped, and air dries (no baking!) to a hard finish that can be carved, or sanded - perfect for artists and crafters of all kinds! Learn more about us, plus [tips](#) and [techniques](#) for working with our products.



### TIPS FOR WORKING WITH RUBBER STAMPS:

1. Prepare Paperclay® by rolling it out or flattening it to about 1/4" thick. Make sure the surface is level so that you get a good even stamp. Flattening with the back of a very large wooden stamp works well for achieving a perfectly flat surface.
2. Rolling out Paperclay® on plastic wrap or waxed paper makes it easier to handle Paperclay®.
3. Pigment inks such as Yasutomo's ColorCubes or Yasutomo's FabricMates fabric markers work best for stamping in Paperclay®. Water color inks will tend to bleed and leave a blurry image.
3. After rolling out the Paperclay®, load stamp with ink and stamp into the moist Paperclay®.
4. To cut out the stamped images from the flattened Paperclay® you can use scissors and cut it like you would paper. Also you may want to try turning a drinking glass upside down and using it like a cookie cutter to cut perfect circles.
5. Another method for cutting shapes out of the flattened Paperclay® is to use a toothpick and trace around the stamped image pressing the toothpick in at a 45 degree angle. Any rough edges can be smoothed with your finger and a drop of water.
6. Leave the stamped Paperclay® figures out to air dry hard for a day or so. If you're in a hurry, you may put the Paperclay® figures into your kitchen oven at 250 degrees for 15 minutes or until dry.
7. After the Paperclay® has dried you can use fabric markers or any other paint to color in the outline of the stamped image if you wish.
8. You can use embossing powder with Paperclay® by stamping on to a pre-dried piece. Dry Paperclay® is similar to wood.
9. When the stamped figures are completely dry, you can spray on a coat of lacquer to seal and protect them. Clear fingernail polish can also be brushed on to finish the pieces. After the lacquer or fingernail polish has dried, you can glue earring posts or pin backs on the back of the pieces to create your own unique and wearable stamp art!

Be sure to keep any unused Paperclay® in a air-tight bag for future use. If it should become a little dry as you're working with it, or in the bag, you can knead a few drops of water back into it to make it fresh again.

If Paperclay® should stick to your stamp just rinse it off with water.

## TECHNIQUES: [Craft Tips for Creating with Paperclay® Products.](#)

**1. Working Surface** - Place plastic wrap (pieces cut from trash bags work well) over your work surface to prevent sticking. If you're working on a waterproof surface, moisten the area beneath the plastic to anchor it to the table. Waxed paper may also be used, but it doesn't hold up as well. You may also want to keep a small container of water on hand for thinning and smoothing Paperclay®.

**2. Rolling it out** - Put the Paperclay® on one end of the plastic wrap. Fold the other end of the plastic over to cover the Paperclay®. Then use a rolling pin to roll out to the desired thickness.

**3. Imprinting** - After rolling out Paperclay®, remove the top layer of the plastic and lay lace or any other textured fabric directly on top of the Paperclay® and roll again to get the unique textures and patterns.

**4. Covering Objects** - To cover or embellish an object with Paperclay®, wet it with a small amount of water before applying the Paperclay®. Paperclay® sticks well to most surfaces, but if you have a problem, you can always use white glue.

**5. Using molds** - The method used to release Paperclay® from molds depends on the type of mold used. When using **plastic molds** there are several methods for release:

- Leave Paperclay® in mold overnight, it will dry and shrink slightly so it will come out of the mold easily the next day.
- Cover the mold with a very thin coat of liquid soap.
- Sprinkle talcum powder in the mold.
- Spray the mold with a mold release (Armor All® works great!).
- Cover the mold with a piece of nylon and then press in the Paperclay®.
- When using **plaster molds** use talcum powder or the nylon method to remove Paperclay® from the mold immediately or it may stick to and damage the mold.

**6. Drying Paperclay®** - Small items will generally dry in a day or so depending on room temperature and humidity. Larger projects may take a few days to completely dry. If you're in a hurry, you may put your unpainted projects in a 250 degree oven for 30 minutes or until dry.

**7. Sanding, carving, etc.** - After Paperclay® dries, it can be sanded and carved like wood. You can also build on to a completely dry Paperclay® object by just applying fresh Paperclay® (see #4).

**8. Painting** - Once Paperclay® is dried, it can be painted with any type of paint. After painting, spray with a clear acrylic spray sealer if desired. Paperclay® may also be colored by kneading water base paint into it before shaping.

**9. Storage** - After you have opened a package keep the unused portion in an air tight bag. If it should happen to dry out slightly while you're working or it's in the bag, simply knead in a few drops of water to restore its pliability.

[Follow these helpful hints and have fun!](#)