

A TUTORIAL BY KATER'S ACRES

<http://katersacres.com/polyclay/tutorials/dragon-tutorial/>



Dragons

How to Make a Polymer Clay Dragon, Christi Friesen Style



Disclaimer

In order to do this dragon tutorial, you will need **Christi Friesen's "Dragon" book** that is available for purchase on her website. Due to copyright, exact details and process have been minimalized to protect Christi's art and design. Polymer clay is the most shared community in the world, please do not ruin that by going against US copyright laws.

The Friesen Project of 2013

What is The Friesen Project? I wanted to bring the polymer clay community together and spend 52 weeks (1 year) getting to play with clay and learn some of the basics of the Christi Friesen design and style elements.

See the series below:

<http://katersacres.com/category/polyclay/friesen/>

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Start with the Basics

You basically want a head, body, and tail. Condition about 1/2 block of clay. Then, start with a ball, roll it to a pear, and stretch and shape it from there.

Make It Look Like a Dragon

You will need to **shape your dragons head**, the most important part. This is the part of your dragon that will set the "tone" of your sculpture. Your head could be pointy, elongated, smooshed flat on the nose, have a horn, or look "snubbed." (See page 11)

When that is finished you want to **move onto the tail**. Don't be afraid to make that dragon tail twist, curve, twirl, spin, or go right side up! Anything goes! (See page 12)

Now, alter your body shape. Pinch up the back and **make some wing pads** for the wings to lay against (if you are not putting wings on your dragon, you may omit this step). And then do the final tilting, rotation, or **placement of your dragon head** (pages 14-15) .



Now Add the Parts

Now add your **wings**. Start with a basic pear shape and flatten into a curved "wing" shape (Page 15-16).

Add **eyes & eye lids**. (Page 17-21)

Add a **nose & ears**. (Page 21-23)

Add the Details

Now add all that really cool brick-brack, fizzle-schnizzle, curls, twirls, rooster combs, whatever, you name it! Embed some beads in key places to give your figurine some character. Add bumps for texture if you'd like. Add curls, feathers, dots, swirls, pearls, rice-like bits, a hairdo ... whatever you'd like ... but get creative! (Pages 24-26)





Bake Your Dragon

Baking times will depend on the brand of clay you have used. Check your package and back your dragon for the recommended time.

Add A Patina

Now is the time to **add an acrylic paint** to your dragon to accent him. If you prefer the raw clay straight from the oven, omit this step.

Just pick a color of acrylic paint that you like. Arm yourself with your paintbrush and sponge (or baby wipes ... I prefer baby wipes). Then dab the paint all of your baked creation. Then simply wipe away with a damp sponge or baby wipe. But be careful, don't wipe too hard or you will take the paint off. So wipe gently please!



Varnish Your Beastie

Now **add your Varnish**. I use Varathane Varnish. Christi recommends either Sculpey glaze or Varathane varnish. For more finishing details see page 39 in the Dragon tutorial book.



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