



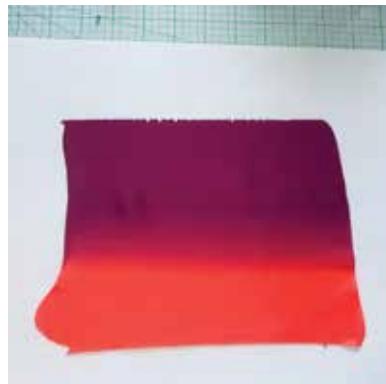
Step 1: Dahlia: Whatcha Need

2 oz fresh clay any colors you like and a small amount of a center color. A large ball tool, A blade, petal cutters and an X-acto knife and liquid clay (Bake and Bond)



Step 4: Pinch Your Petals:

Pinch the tip and end of your petals to make them more realistic and 3D. **Expert Tip** This is when you will add texture to your petals before you sculpt them



Step 2: Skinner blend:

Using a pasta machine, create a skinner blend from your 2 main colors (optional) Roll out your clay to a medium-thin sheet (#5 on my Atlas machine)



Step 3: Petals:

Starting at one end of your skinner blend, cut about 15-18 XL petals, 13-15 L petals, 9-12 M, 6-12 Sm

Hint: Make sure you keep your petals in order so that your flower color fades properly



Step 5: Slather:

You can start with a disc of clay, I am using a small lidded box. Slather the disc or box lid with liquid clay and start arranging the LARGEST petals in an overlapping circle.



Step 6: Keep Circling:

Continue with the largest petals around the circle. No need to worry about filling the center yet. (I prefer to have an odd number of petals)



Step 7: Another Course:

Add another course of the largest petals, this time make sure to have the petals touch the center. You want to offset this new course between the previous petals.



Step 8: Petal to the Metal:

Secure all the petals together by pushing gently in the very center with your large ball tool



Step 9: Add Smaller Petals:

Using the same method as step 7 add another course (or 2) of the next smaller petals.

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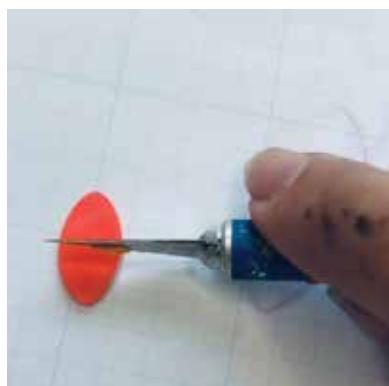
Step 10: Squish:

Using your ball tool leave a nice rounded impression in the center of your flower. This will leave a cup for the flower center



Step 11: Center Ball:

Make sure your center ball is a bit smaller than the impression you made with your ball tool. Sculpt it a little so that it's a very fat teardrop.



Step 12: Widdle Petals:

Cut about 6 of your SMALLEST petals in half. **HINT:** flatten out the edges of the petal so that they appear a little less thick



Step 13: Hey Bud:

Layer your cut smallest petals around the fat part of the center ball. Then add your next smallest petals around the whole center bud.



Step 14: Hey Bud take 2:

TADA!! Now you have your center. Look at the underside, is it about the size of your divot? Cut it or sculpt it now to get it close.



Step 15: Snotta Glue:

Add a drop of bake and bond (liquid clay) to the center of your flower



Step 16: Push it Real Good:

Use your ball tool to push the center of the flower into place then arrange the inner petals to match the contour of the larger ones.



Step 17: YAY YOU!:

Texture the inside of the flower and give yourself a pat on the back. You made a dahlia flower

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