



"How To"



# Smooth Polymer Clay Tutorial

A neat trick for smoothing Fimo brand polymer clay!

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Before I share this with you, I need to let you know that I only tried this on the brand of clay I work with, Fimo Professional Clay. It might work just great on other brands as well, but please try it on a scrap of clay before you use these steps on your sculpture.



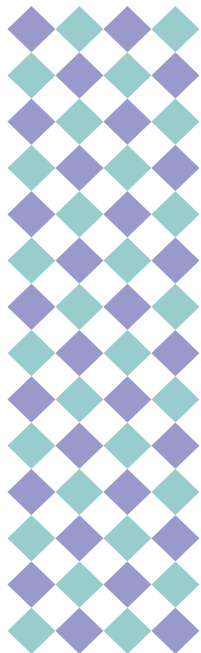
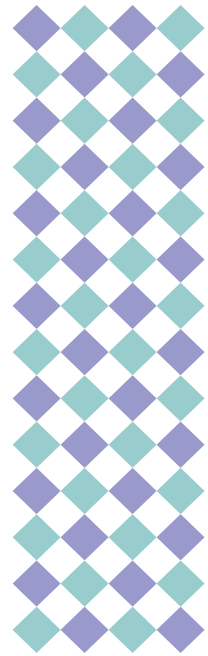
## Supplies:

Isopropyl (Rubbing) **Alcohol** 70% works fine

**Bounty Paper Towels** (Other brands might work also, but we found these worked very well and didn't break down)

A **pump bottle** like you see here. These were found at a Dollar Store or you can find them at beauty supply stores.

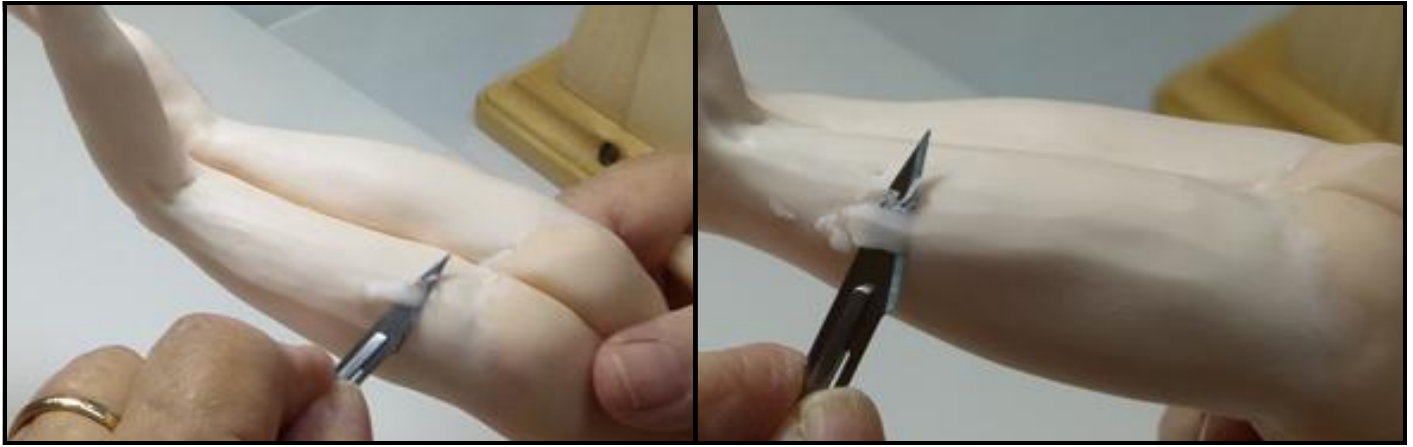
That's it! If you don't have the pump bottle, you can use a small dish for dipping the towel pieces.



Begin by cutting the paper toweling into small pieces, about 2" x 3". Set these aside.

Fill the pump bottle with alcohol. Hold a piece of towel over the top of the pump and pump until the alcohol fills the well at the top of the bottle to make sure it works correctly.

\*or fill a small dish with alcohol and have it ready.



There are different methods for sculpting; additive and subtractive. I use a combination of both, adding clay to the sculpt, then using a scalpel to trim away excess clay. This leaves ridges like you see here.

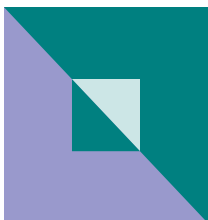
Slice away clay until you are satisfied with the contours of the part of the sculpt you are working on.



Moisten a folded square of paper toweling by pumping the alcohol into the pad.

Use the pad to rub on the ridges of clay. The texture of the paper towel will help smooth out the ridges, just like sand paper! The alcohol helps to melt a little bit of the clay surface and also smoothes the clay.

Continue to rub on the clay until it is smooth.





In this photo you can see the slightly melted clay on the surface of the leg.

In the second photo above, you can see the paper towel is still intact— no break down— and a little build up of clay on the towel.



Here you can see the legs after smoothing has been done. To get into small spaces, I used a scalpel to rub with the toweling; like between the legs.

That's it, continue to use pieces of toweling and rubbing alcohol until the sculpt is smooth. You can refold the paper and use it several times before discarding.

In the past I have recommended the use of alcohol swabs for smoothing. I still use them. These are the small squares that come in foil packages, used to clean skin for injections. This method is a great alternative to those swabs if you have trouble accessing those. And the Bounty paper towels do not leave any fibers behind, another big plus!

*Adele Sciortino discovered this neat trick while we were at the Dryad Retreat this past May, 2016. Thanks go out to Adele! Enjoy— and we hope this helps you.*