

# Explosion Accordion Folded Album

## with Polymer Clay cover and a Charm or picture Window filled with UTEE

### Supplies:

- Polymer Clay (approx. 3 blocks for 4" album.)
- Wax Paper
- Pattern paper: can be regular paper or tracing paper.
- Texture sheets or other texture makers like lace, fabric, etc.
- Tissue blade
- Sharp Kraft knife
- Pasta Machine or brayer to roll clay.
- Clear UTEE: Ultra Thick Embossing Enamel
- Charm, tiny photo, or other item to embed in UTEE.
- Baking surface: Two tiles or two pieces of cardstock large enough on which to bake each cover. For the large cover you will need two approx. 8" square tiles or cardstock. For smaller cover, you will need at least two 6" tiles or cardstock.
- Ribbon or Cord: Matching Ribbon for ties: Small Album - 24" of 1/2" ribbon. Large album - 28" to 30"
- Glue: Glue stick or PVA glue to glue the cardstock pages together. E-6000 or Weldbond glue for polymer clay.
- Album Pages: Three square sheets of double sided cardstock. Can be printed or plain paper. Use 8.5 by 8.5 inch cardstock for small 4 1/4" pages. Use 12 by 12 inch cardstock for large 6" pages. You may use three colors of paper or three sheets of one color for the pages.

*This is a two part project.*

*Part 1: making two covers of polymer clay that will either be 4 1/2" square or 6 1/4" square. These measurements will make a cover with a 1/8" overhang all the way around. (If a smaller cover is desired, cut the clay 4 3/8" square or 6 1/8" square.)*

*The cover for this project will have an opening for a picture, dried flower or charm.*

*Part 2: Making the album pages that will go between the covers.*

### 1. POLYMER CLAY COVER LESSON

1. Condition Clay.
2. Make a pattern/template for the size and shape of cover desired. Set aside
3. Make a pattern/template for the opening which will be cut out of the front cover. Set aside.
4. Roll conditioned clay through the pasta machine on 4 or 5 (middle thickness) or with a brayer to about the thickness of a toothpick.
5. Make four sheets of clay larger than needed for the album cover. Two will be used to make the textured covers, the other two will be used as 'backing sheets' for the textured front sheets.
6. Put two sheets of clay on a baking surface, smoothing to remove air bubbles. Set aside. These two sheets of clay are the 'backing' sheets.
7. Put the remaining two sheets of clay on wax paper. Spritz with water as a release for the texture plates.
8. Press a texture plate or other texture maker into each sheet of clay. If using a texture plate, you may run both it and the clay back through the pasta maker (remove the wax paper first) on the thickest setting or use a brayer to imprint the texture.
9. Make the Back of the Album: Stack one textured sheet onto an un-textured backing sheet, pressing from one end to the other, smoothing as you go to prevent any air bubbles. Gently roll with brayer to seal. (Do not roll hard as the texture may be ruined.)
10. Back continued: Put the pattern/template on the clay. Use your long blade or sharp craft knife to cut away the excess clay.

11. Back continued: Embellish the back if desired by adding elements and or mica powders that reflect your overall design. Bake. Allow to cool.
12. Creating the Front of the Album: Using matching or contrasting clay and a rubber stamp or molded parts, create embellishments as follows.
  - a. Rubber stamp - Roll a contrasting or matching sheet of clay.
    - i. Using baby powder or corn starch dust the entire piece of clay.
    - ii. Press the stamp firmly into the clay.
    - iii. Cut or tear out parts desired for the cover.
  - b. Molded embellishments - Choose contrasting or matching clay.
    - i. Using baby powder or mist of water, release the mold.
    - ii. Mold the desired parts.

13. Front continued: Place the parts on the uncut, textured sheet of clay as desired. Embellish with textured and or molded clay, leaving a place where you will cut your embed opening.

14. Front continued: Using the pattern/template for the opening for your embed, place it on the embellished clay where the 'window' is desired. Cut around the pattern/template using a sharp kraft knife. Remove the pattern/template and lift out the cut away clay. If desired, you can use kemper cutters or small cookie cutters to cut the window or multiple windows.

15. Front continued: Now embellish the remaining 'backing' sheet. Decorate the clay with a very thin sheet of contrasting clay where the window will go, or add foil, or pearl powder (do not use this powder in excess of the opening), wire mesh etc.

16. Front continued: Place the textured sheet of clay over the 'backing' sheet just as you did with the album back but do not roll. Carefully press in place from one end to the other to prevent air bubbles.

17. Front continued: Put the pattern/template on the clay. Use your long blade or sharp craft knife to cut away the excess clay.

18. Front continued: Put your embed into the window. Pour a small amount of UTEE into the opening, allowing it to mound up slightly high in the center, than the thickness of the clay.

a. At this point, you can use pearl powders to decorate your embellishments, or liquid sculpey mixed with ultra fine glitter, mica powders as a paint to use in the stamp detail as it will pool in the low areas, foils, etc.

19. Front continued: Bake for 30 minutes at 275° F. Use an oven thermometer!! Allow to cool.

20. You can use crackle finish, accent with thinned acrylic paint, etc. When you have the effect you like, varnish the covers.

21. Using E-6000 or Weldbond glue, affix the covers to the folded albums to which the ribbons have been attached.

### 2. PAPER FOLDING LESSON:

#### Album Pages:

1. Begin with the 3 squares of paper in desired size and color(s). Fold each square in half from side to side, open and fold in half again. Fold each square on the diagonal, one time, corner to corner. See diagram.
2. Place the three square of folded paper side-by-side with the diagonal fold running from top to bottom. The center folded square is on top of the other two folded squares.
3. The two outside folded squares will have the diagonal fold as a mountain fold. The center square will have the diagonal fold as a valley fold.
4. Using a glue stick, glue the unfolded small squares of the middle piece to a matching small square of each side folded square. See gray areas of folding diagram.
5. Refold the pages so that the album lies flat. Weight with a book and allow to dry.
6. Glue the ribbon across the back or front of the folded cardstock pages either from corner to corner (diagonal) or straight across (horizontal), depending on your cover design.
7. Glue the finished covers to the outside album pages..
8. When embellishing the inside folded pages, be sure not to glue over the folds, but fit the parts around the folds to allow the album to open and close easily.
9. Tie with the ribbon.

Diagonal Mountain Fold

Gray Areas: Overlap squares and Glue together.

Diagonal Valley Fold

Diagonal Mountain Fold

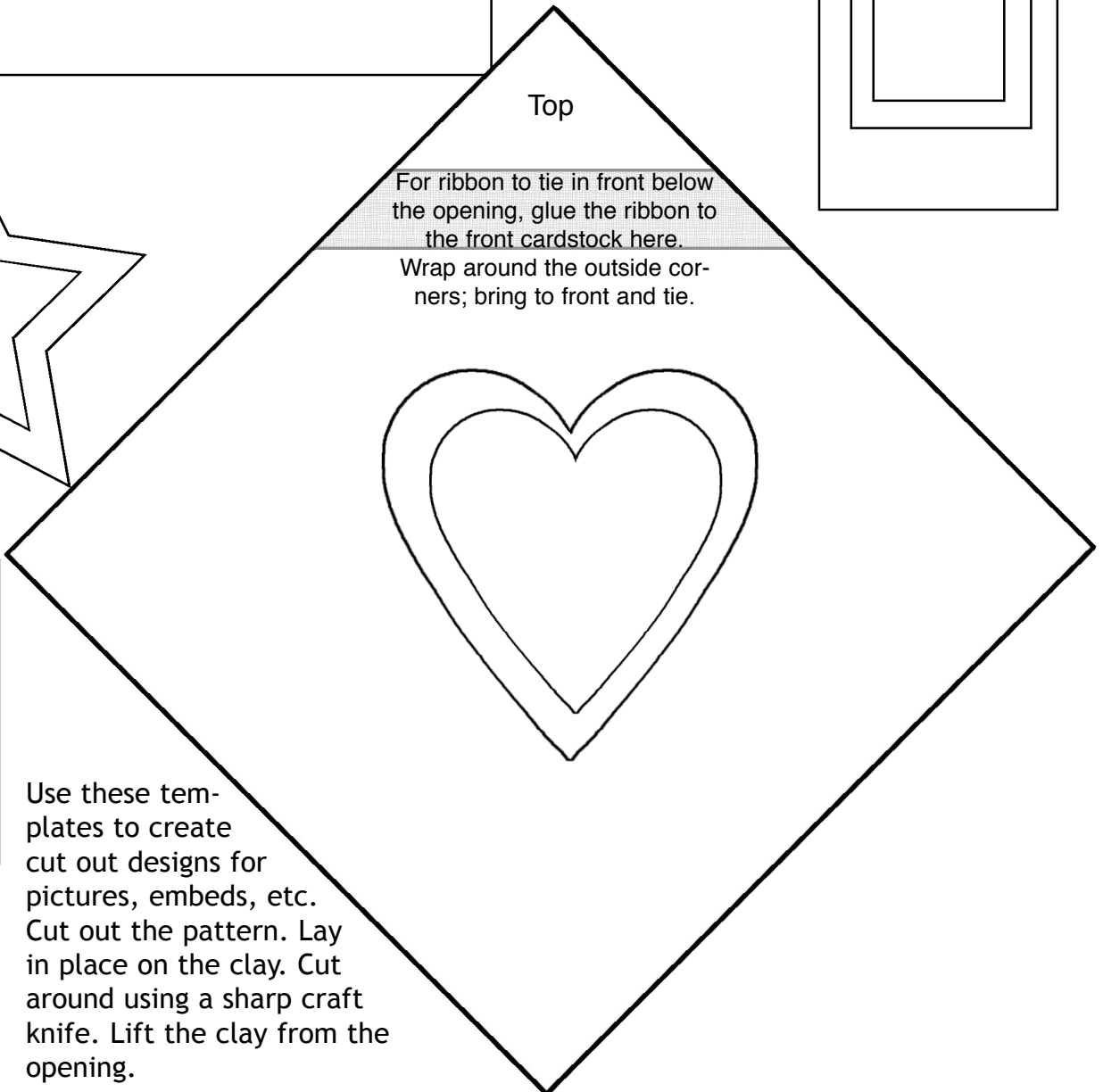
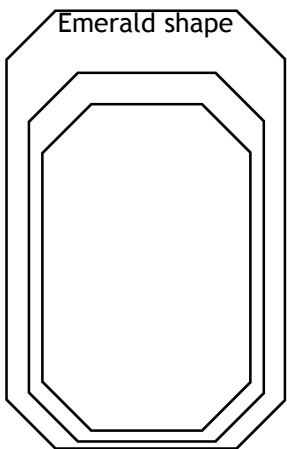
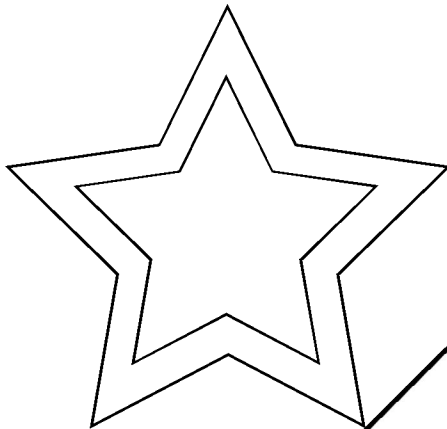
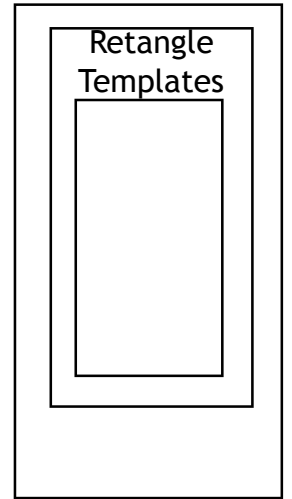
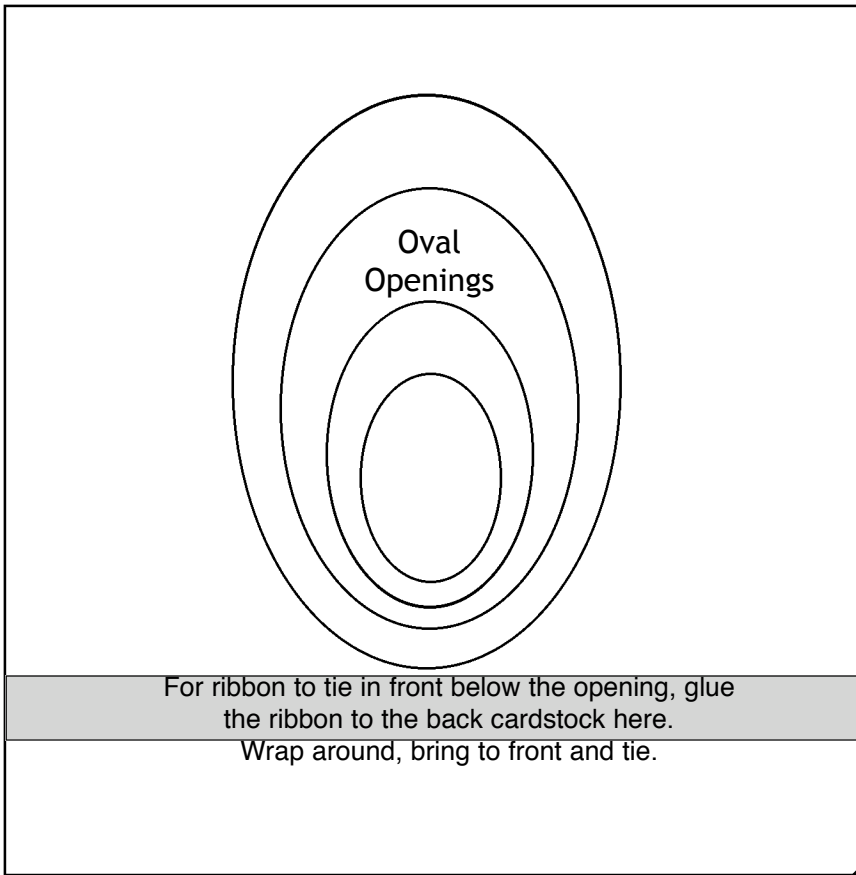
Lay pattern this way for assembly

## 4" Surprise Accordion Cover & Template Pattern

Left, Horizontal cover pattern.

Below right Diamond (right angle) cover pattern.

Within each design are templates you may use for cut out openings.



Use these templates to create cut out designs for pictures, embeds, etc. Cut out the pattern. Lay in place on the clay. Cut around using a sharp craft knife. Lift the clay from the opening.