

Winter Snowman Switchplate

Lesson: Covering switchplate, snow texture and Faux Knit.



Materials needed:

- Switchplate cover. I used an inexpensive one from Wal-Mart.
- Medium Grit Sand Paper (this step may be omitted if desired.)
- White Glue: Sobo or The Crafter's Pick
- Polymer Clay
 - Metallic Blue Fimo
 - Metallic White Fimo
 - Pale Blue
 - Black
- Very tiny amounts of the following colors:
 - Orange
 - Yellow
 - Brown
- Tools:
 - *Metal or wood tool with small softly rounded point. You can make one of these by gently sanding the point of a round toothpick.
 - *Sharp craft knife, like Exacto.
 - *Brushes, and other favorite tools.
 - *Razor blade or flexible tissue blade to lift the faux knit.
 - *Optional: Makin's or other extruder with very small round 'hair' disk.
 - *Optional: Pasta Machine for conditioning and rolling clay.
- Baking Surface: 6" ceramic tile or cardstock.
- Optional: White paint - for screw heads.

Notes:

To make this switch plate practical, be sure that there are no rough edges or large parts sticking out from the switchplate that might break off upon use.

When cutting out the patterns, smooth the edges of the clay part before pressing the clay to the background.

The temptation will be to make the parts too thick or too big. Remember Penni Jo's rule of half. Take what you need. Cut it in half. This may still be too much. It is very easy to overestimate the amount of clay needed.

Prepare the switchplate:

Sand lightly to rough the shiny surface. Coat with white glue. Allow to dry.

Clay Steps:

1. Condition the clay by hand or on the pasta machine, conditioning the white first and the darker colors last to prevent color transfer.
2. Roll out the white clay using setting number 3, (the third thickness from the thickest.)
3. Also roll the metallic blue out on setting number 3.
4. Put the sheet of blue clay onto the switchplate, smoothing in down from the center out to prevent air bubbles from forming.
5. Press gently to identify the switch opening and the screw holes.
6. Use the sharp craft knife to cut out the center rectangle. When cutting the screw holes open, slant the cut

the cut are at a 45° angle to allow the

screw to go in enough to secure the plate to the wall. Smooth.

7. Happy Star and Hatband: Mix six parts metallic white to one part yellow. Using pattern #5, cut out the star. Using pointy tool, make the face as shown. Using a dull pointy tool, make streaks and dots in the background around the star as shown. Set the rest of the light yellow aside for now.
8. Cut a bit of the metallic white, Pattern A. Place it as shown in the area labeled background. Smooth.
9. Cut pieces 1, 2 and 3. Smooth edges and place as shown, starting with number 1. Build the snowman just like a real one. Slightly overlap each higher number. See color photo. Smooth the pieces down, being careful not to catch air bubbles. Make dents for his eyes, mouth and buttons.
10. Cut a piece of metallic white clay Pattern B. Place as shown. Smooth the pieces down, being careful not to catch air bubbles.
11. Texture the snow using the dull, round tool. Make dots deep enough on piece A as shown to create 'shading'.
12. Make the snow puppy starting with # 6. Take care not to get him to 'fat'. Add # 7 for his head, overlapping the body. Make two # 8 tiny balls for his ears. #9 is the upper jaw, #10 is the lower jaw. A tiny rope shaped like #11 makes his front leg and #12 is his back leg. #13 is a tiny tail. Press all parts together, smooth and texture. Make a dent for his eye, we will add the 'coal' later.
13. Snowman's hat and 'coal' eyes, mouth and buttons. From flattened black clay, cut the hat top using #4. Press it over his head. Roll a small coil and press it as shown over the seam between the hat and the head of the snowman. Roll a very small coil of clay, cut tiny pieces and roll them into rough balls. Insert these balls into the dents in the snowman and snow puppy. Add a ball to the end of #9 to make a nose for puppy.
14. Make a 'hatband' using some of the left over light yellow.
15. Roll a very, very small cone of orange and place as shown.
16. Make very skinny arms from brown as shown.
17. Faux Knit: See work sheet.
18. Apply the faux knit as follows. Around the neck of the snowman and the puppy, two twists, one R, one L. Puppy scarf 3 twists one R, one L, one R. Snowman scarf, 4 twists, R, L, R, L. Knot on snowman's scarf, two twists R & L.
19. Make a number of very, very tiny bits of white rolled into balls and flattened onto the blue clay for snowflakes. Go over your piece to be sure all parts are secure. Bake following manufacturer's instructions. Allow to cool.
20. Varnish if desired. If needed paint the screws white to look like large snowflake.

Patterns

