



Save **in** Style

Make a bank in the shape of a purse

By Julie A. Soper

Objectives

- Make a cute, decorative shape that's also functional
- Apply texture to achieve different glaze effects

Step 1: Roll out a large clay slab about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. Texture the entire slab with the Retro Squares mat. This will require you to texture the slab in sections, aligning the design each time to you move the mat to a new section. When finished, transfer the entire slab to a plaster board

Step 2: Make four copies of the pattern provided. Cut the outer pattern out of two copies and the inner piece from the others. Lay the patterns out on the textured clay and cut around each pattern with a sharp X-Acto knife. The two rectangles will be the purse bank's front and back pieces; the smaller trapezoids will be the sides. Also cut a rectangle measuring 2 ¼ x 8 inches from the textured clay to make the top piece of the bank. Remove the excess clay from around each piece.

Step 3: Use some of the excess clay to roll out a smooth clay slab large enough for you to cut out one 5 x 8-inch rectangle for the bottom of the bank. Place the rectangle on the plaster board with the other pieces.

Step 4: Cut a circle opening in the middle of the bottom slab large enough for coins to fall through once the bank is finished and sized so that the bank plug can be used to stopper it.

Step 5: Let the pieces dry to leather hard on the plaster board until they can be assembled into the purse shape without bending.

Step 6: Select one side piece and the back rectangle piece. Score and slip the edges of both pieces where they will meet and press them together. Stand the joined pieces upright on the plaster board.

Step 7: Score and slip the edges of the bottom rectangle where it will be joined with the assembled back and side pieces. Also score and slip along the bottom inside of the joined pieces. Slide the bottom piece into place and hold it still as you press evenly along the outside bottom edge of the back and side pieces to join them to the bottom.

Step 8: Attach the other side piece by scoring, and slipping all joining edges and pressing into place.

Step 9: Use the X-Acto knife to trim the front edges of both side pieces to a slight angle. Then bevel cut the front edge of the bottom piece to angle inward, toward the center of the box.

Step 10: Score and slip all connecting edges on both the front piece and the assembled pieces of the bank. Keep one hand inside the bank to support the shape as you press the front rectangle firmly into place along the connecting edges.

Step 11: While the top piece is still lying flat on the plaster board, cut a narrow coin slot in the center of the slab and punch a small hole at each end of the piece for the wire of the handle to fit through.

Step 12: Flip the top piece over. Score and slip a wide area around the outside edge of the untextured side; do the same to the top edges of the partially assembled bank. Press the top piece into place.

Step 13: Turn the bank over so that it's resting on the top piece and trim any excess material from around the top slab. Then turn the bank right-side up again.

Step 14: Smooth all joining edges with a moist sponge.

Step 15: Hand roll 16 to 18 round clay balls roughly equal in size.

Step 16: Insert a length of high temp wire through the center of each clay ball, leaving at least 3 inches of empty wire on each side of the string of clay balls. Bend the wire into a curve so that the line of clay balls can form the handle of the purse, with the empty wire spaced to fit into the holes at each end of the top piece of the bank.

Materials

Brent Mini SRC slab roller by Amaco or rolling pin
EM347 whiteware clay with grog by Laguna Clay
Squeeze bottle with compatible slip
Clay cutting wire
Clay canvas
Assorted Kemper clay tools
X-Acto knife
Plaster board
Assorted sponges for propping
High-temp wire
Brushes, including dedicated brush for overglaze
Ornament firing stand
Rolling texture wheel of choice

Materials by Mayco

MT-004 Retro Squares texture mat
Elements EL-133 Autumn
Foundations F-009 Black
Speckled SP-205 Tiger Tail

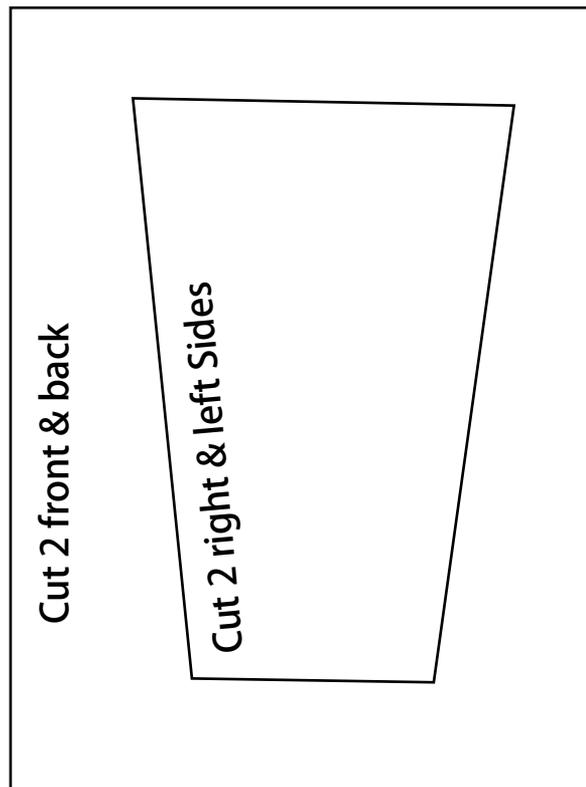
Materials by Duncan

OG 802 White Gold overglaze
OA 901 Essence brush cleaner

Miscellaneous

Tissue paper
Bank plug
E6000 epoxy glue

Enlarge Pattern 200%





Step 17: Hang the handle upside down on the ornament firing stand by inserting the extra wire into the small posts at each end of the stand (see photo).

Step 18: Texture a narrow strip of clay with the rolling texture wheel. Score, slip the back and attach to the front of the bank to simulate the edge of the flap for the purse bank.

Step 19: Make a small square or rectangular “clasp.” Score, slip, and press into place right above the textured strip on the front.

Step 20: Let the bank and handle dry for four to five days, until the clay has dried completely.

Step 21: Fire the bank and handle separately to cone 04.

Step 22: Wipe the bisque with a damp sponge to remove any dust.

Step 23: Use a glaze fan to paint three coats of Autumn to all four sides and the top of the bank, letting the color dry completely after each coat.

Step 24: Apply three coats of Black to the bottom of the bank and to the clay balls on the handle. Put the hand back on the ornament rack for firing.

Step 25: Fire the bank and the handle separately to cone 06.

Step 26: Paint a thin layer of White Gold overglaze over the textured strip and clasp piece. Your brush should be used only for overglaze and should be cleaned with Essence after application. Let the color dry completely.

Step 27: Fire the bank to cone 018.

Step 28: Use the E6000 adhesive to attach the handle. Once it’s cured, use the plug to stop up the hold in the bottom of the bank, and you’re ready to start saving in style!

Advanced Methods

Use this technique to make a box instead of a bank by cutting curved triangle shapes for sides and a separate front flap that overlaps the base of the box (see photo at left). The example shown here has a clay bow instead of an overglazed clasp.

Julie A. Soper has been working with ceramics since she was 15. She’s spent the last seven years developing and expanding her skills, and she enjoys traveling to different venues for ceramics classes and spending time with ceramics friends from around the world.

Sources

Amaco: www.amaco.com
 Duncan: www.ilovetocreate.com
 Kemper tools: www.kempertools.com
 Laguna clay: www.lagunaclay.com
 Mayco: www.maycocolors.com
 X-Acto: www.xacto.com

Transform glazes by down firing in a Paragon digital kiln

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Colleen is part of the new world of potters and ceramic sculptors that are on the inside track of modern digital technology.

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