
Shrinky Dink Jewelry with Nicole Blum

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- This is my daughter, Ava. - Hi. - We really like to make stuff. We like to make stuff together. We really like to make Shrinky Dinks. It's a very simple process, no matter what you decide to make. You trace or draw some artwork onto the material, or you can even scan, and then you apply it. We're going to be making two projects today, a little bobby pin and a pair of earrings. This is a great project to do with all ranges of adults and children. I've done it with a group of teens before. You can do it with any child who can hold a pencil, basically. Just scribble something on, and then you can turn that thing into wearable art. It is incredibly addictive, don't you think? Yeah. (upbeat music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- To create your wearable art, you're gonna need a few materials. We're gonna be using shrink plastic, of course. And it comes in both this rough and ready that you can draw or stamp directly on, or this kind, which goes through your inkjet printer, and you can pull art off your computer. If you're gonna be drawing art or stamping directly onto your shrink plastic, you're gonna need colored pencils or permanent markers so it doesn't smear. You can use anything to trace. In this case, it's a handkerchief. Or just something from your minds. We use a craft punch for perfect circles. Or just a pair of scissors to go around some details. - So to shrink your art, you will need a baking tray that's lined with parchment paper and a potholder, and then a metal cup for flattening it. - And then after it's shrunk you take it out of the oven. And if you need to make a hole in it, you'll have matches and a safety pin, and then a pair of pliers, which you will use to open up the jump rings to hang and put 'em on some earrings. And for the bobby pin, you just need a bobby pin blank and a little glue, super glue, that you'll dab on the back and press it right on. And of course you're gonna need an oven.

Chapter 3 - Create Jewelry

Trace or stamp designs

^- Start on the bobby pin project, ^you're going to need plastic that you can draw on directly. ^Or stamp on directly. ^So, that's this kind right here, ^which has sort of a rough side on one side, ^the other side's smooth. ^You're going to want to draw on the rough side. ^It's also really important to know ^that when the plastic shrinks. ^It shrinks to a third of its size, ^from when it was pre-shrunk. ^This is a great example. ^It shows the plastic before it's shrunk. ^And you can see what it turns into, ^after we put it in the oven and shrink it down. ^The color gets much darker, ^so it's important to keep your colors ^and your detail light. ^- To make the bobby pin art, ^I'm using this circle punch. ^I use it to make a perfect circle. ^Now I can just put this straight onto the fabric. ^And trace the lines with my pen. ^And it's really easy because you can just see right through. ^I don't have to do all the details. ^I can just sort of do the basic shape, ^but right now I'm just going over the whole thing. ^I'm using this really fine tine Micron pen, ^which is really nice to use because it makes it so when it shrinks, the lines don't get too big ^and kind of overwhelm the picture. ^And now I'm done with this, ^so we can move on to coloring it in and shading. ^I think that it's important to not color in too dark

^since when it gets big it sort of condenses ^and the color gets darker, ^so I'm just shading this in really lightly with blue. ^Right here, I'm adding in just some little bits ^of darker color just to make it, sort of, ^more three dimensional looking. ^Then I don't have to stick to exactly what I traced ^the colors of it, I can just ^sort of do whatever colors I want to, ^on the other flowers, like this one. ^Like that. ^This looks good now. ^So this is how you would trace onto shrinky-dink paper ^and my mom is going to show you other techniques to use. ^- Yeah, there are lots of different things you can do. ^I'm going to just use a regular stamp. ^And I'm going also to use this permanent waterproof ink ^because I don't want my ink to smear. ^Print it on and then it's like a little mini coloring book. ^So you can leave it black and white ^and cut out the shape or cut out a rectangle. ^Or you can color it in. ^And you just wanna let it dry. ^And use pens or pencils and kind of give this little girl ^a purple coat. ^Keeping it light. ^Alright, I'm gonna add a little yellow. ^For her hair. ^Alright, that's good. ^Now I'm read to cut her out. ^I'm going to cut around the contours of her body. ^I want to think about what I'm gonna do with this, ^as an end result. ^I wanna hang it on a necklace, ^so I'm gonna leave a little bit of extra room on top there, ^so I can poke a hole without going through her head. ^Now if you have something that you know you're gonna glue, ^onto something else. ^Then you don't need to worry about that hole ^or any margins. ^So think about that before you start cutting ^and make a little plan and then it'll be great ^when you're done. ^It'll be exactly how you want it to be.

Scan designs

- You can use an inkjet printer and art from your computer to create beautiful Shrinky Dinks, and it really opens up this whole other world of creativity. You can scan in fabric. You can scan in art. You can get clip art. You can get photographs, whatever, and it's really simple. So, what I did here was I took strips of fabric from my collection, and I just put them on my scanning screen. Scanned them into my computer, and printed out onto this inkjet shrink plastic. Looks like paper, but it's not. It's plastic, and from this, I can cut out in geometric shapes or strips. I can draw on it. I can stamp on it. That's one thing you can do. There's a million beautiful fabrics out there. I have this beautiful swallow that Ava painted, and then I scanned it into the computer same exact way as I did the fabric. And then, I'm able to take that image and insert that into a document, and then I just copied it over and over again, and so I can fill the page. And I can make it smaller. I can make it bigger depending on what I want the end result to be. Again, I lightened this a little bit from the original because it was really rich, deep colors of this bird. And you can see here, I cut one out, and then, this is what it shrinks up to. After you cut it out, it's ready to be shrunk.

Shrink in oven

- We're ready for the best part, where all the magic happens. We get to take the artwork that we've created and cut, and put it onto a parchment-lined tray that's going to go in our oven. Now, I'm using a toaster oven, but you can use a regular oven. It doesn't matter. You're going to put the artwork on the parchment with the artwork facing up. You want to leave a little space in between each of the pieces, because when we put it the oven, there's gonna be all sorts of transformation going on, and part of that is curling and sort of moving around. So I have my oven set as the manufacturer has described on the package, and I think we're ready to go. So I'm gonna open it up. All right, here it goes. And we can see it starting now. It's starting to curl up. And you're gonna get worried. And you're gonna think, "It's never gonna not curl." And sometimes they do get stuck like this. If you have something that has really long wings. I think these are short enough that you can

play around, see what works. But most of the time they unfold again. Isn't it so magical? - [Woman In Dark Shirt] Yeah. - And they'll start to flatten out. And when they get pretty flat, it's time to take them out of the oven. And if you can't see through your oven window, through your oven door, then just take a peek. You open the door every once in a while, and take a peek, see how they're doing. It's not gonna matter. All right, and if they stay a little bit curled, get ready, you can press them down with a little metal measuring cup. So they start to cool on the the tray. You take them off and you need to make sure that you press them while they're hot, so right from the oven. All right, I'm gonna take them off. Now if you overbake them, they will get a little bit brown, so do keep your eye on it. But once they start to flatten out, that's really when it's time for them to come out. - Sometimes the ink will be smudging or it won't be set completely, so you need to spray it with a sealant to make sure that doesn't happen. - Yeah, and I've used this varnish. You can use anything that will work on the material, plastic, so just read the label. And see how far away you need to spray from. I'm not gonna do it in here, just 'cause it's something you really want to do outside. But you just spray it on, according to the manufacturer's directions, and you'll be good to go.

Make earrings and bobby pin

- And now we're going to make the earrings that we showed you before, the little bird earrings. The first thing we need to do is create a hole so we can hang a little jump ring and then put them on the earrings. So to do that, instead of using a hole punch, which you can do but I feel like it's a little less controllable like where it's going to go and it seems very big, so I'm going to do this other method where I'm going to open up a safety pin and I'm going to light a match. Heat the tip of the pin until it's red hot. And it's going to go right through the plastic. Like butter. Slide it right through. And pull it out. And repeat with the other side. This is probably a grownup's job too. So you want it to get red hot. Push it right through where you want it to go and kind of move it back and forth a little bit if you need to to create the hole width the size you need. If it starts to cool, it'll get stuck like that. Okay, so you just want to make sure you pull it out before it cools. - Assembling your bobby pin is easy. We sprayed this one with sealant so we let it sit for an hour. I'm going to take a little dab of this super glue and put it on to this part of the bobby pin plank and I can just press it down with my finger, and that should probably be left to dry for at least an hour. - Alright, now the holes are made so you can apply the jump rings. What you're going to do is take your needle nose pliers. There's a little break in the loop right there and I'm going to hold the jump ring with the pliers and the other side between my thumb and forefinger and I'm going to twist it so it makes a little opening like that. And then I'm going to slide that right through the hole that I created. Then I'm going to seal this up again the same way I opened it. I'm going to need to pinch it a little bit. Now you're going to just hang this on your earring hook. Alright, so there's one earring done and you can repeat the same exact process on the other bird to make yourself a really lovely pair of earrings. And I think that we've showed that it's a really simple process. You can apply what we've showed today to a whole array of different wearables, earrings and rings and anklets and bracelets and things like that. You really can give a billion people gifts now super easily and I think I want to wear my little earrings. Maybe you should wear your little bobby pin. I'm very excited. It matches my necklace. It's my girl's work. What could be better?