

Take & Make - *for Teens & Adults*

Project #2: Terracotta Clay Holder & Cactus Tealight

What is it?

We will be making a geometric shaped clay tealight holder using terracotta clay and a cactus tealight. This project was adapted from a project found on Pinterest:

<https://www.gatheringbeauty.com/blog//2013/07/diy-faceted-clay-tealight-holders.html#.UodHEdK9Ibx=>

What's in the Kit:

- Air hardening terracotta clay
- Cactus tealight (1)
- White tealight (1)
- Plastic knife (1)
- Nail file (1)

What You'll Need:

- Cup of water
- Plenty of paper towels
- Surface to cut on (cutting board)
- A serrated knife (if the plastic one provided doesn't do the trick)

What we'll be doing:

- Start by rolling your air hardening clay into a ball.
 - If you find that your clay has begun to harden, then put a *few drops of water* onto it to make it more malleable.
- Take a tea light and press it firmly into your ball of clay.
 - **TIP:** Wet the bottom of the tealight and the clay where you are going to press the tealight into.
 - Don't worry about any cracks in the clay just yet, you can fix these later.
 - Make sure to give the tealight a wiggle. You want to leave enough space that you can remove and replace the tealight as needed.
- Using the supplied plastic knife, begin cutting into the base of the clay at an angle.
 - Be careful not to cut too close to your tealight.
 - Continue to cut around the base until you are happy with the shape, then make a few cuts from the top to make the geometric shape.
- This is the part where you can fix any cracks or splits in the clay. Use a little water and either your fingertips or the flat side of a knife and smooth out any imperfections.
- Leave to dry overnight or until hard.
 - If your clay is thick in spots it may take up to **48** hours to dry.
- When completely dry use sandpaper or a nail file to smooth down any rough or rounded edges.

Once you are satisfied with the filed result, put in your cactus tealight and you are done! Good Job!!

Share your progress and designs on the library's Facebook and Instagram pages, or email them to Whitney at wkbrown@sailsinc.org. Don't forget to register for Project #3: Bleeding Color Art Stationary, on Wednesday, Aug 5th!