

## BAKE YOUR OWN BROOCHES

Oven baked plasticine clay (Fimo, Sculpy or Premo) allows you to make larger than life stage jewelry, or replicas of period jewelry to exactly match your designs for a stage costume. It can be worked quite easily, can be combined with stones, glass, metal findings or plastic jewels. It bakes hard in a conventional or toaster oven, and accepts paints and other finishes. See the next page for instructions to make a simple brooch.

*Oven baked clay pendants baked onto existing earrings. Stones and pearls baked into the clay.*



*3-piece corsage made from oven-baked clay on a backing of wooden cutouts. Glass stones, rhinestones and pearls are embedded in the clay before cooking.*



If after trying the simple brooch project on the next page, you want to learn more advanced techniques for making historicist jewelry with plasticine clay, I highly recommend [Creating Your Own Antique Jewelry: Taking Inspiration From Great Museums Around the World](#) by Cris Dupoy.



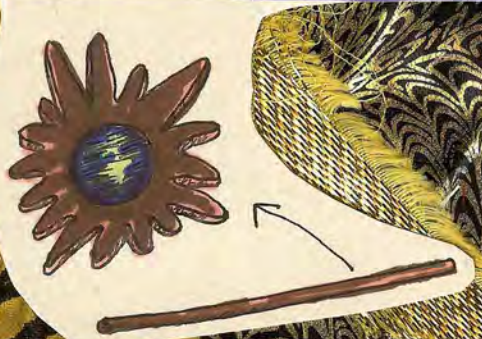
#1. Begin with a pre-cut wooden shape, or cut a cardboard shape to make a stiffened base. Roll out oven-hardening plastic clay (ideally in black or brown) in a thin sheet, and cover the stiff form, wrapping the edges. If you prefer, you can also simply make the base out of a slightly thicker sheet of plastic clay cut to the desired shape with no additional stiffening.



#2. Neaten all the edges for a finished look.



#3. Use a stone, rhinestone, or foil-backed glass as a central stone. Stick it into the clay, adding a drop of glue beneath for extra strength if desired. Roll clay into a long snake, or roll and cut a long strip.



#4. Use the strip or snake to bezel-set the stone. Press in the snake or strip towards the stone to be certain it will firmly hold it in place.



#5. Make more narrow snakes, strips, balls or other decorative shapes and stick them to the brooch base in patterns to your own design.



Bake according to the package instructions of the particular brand of oven-bake clay you are using. Do not over bake. After cooling, apply an antique metal finish and/or metal leaf to taste.





# Monster Claw Gloves



*Curved monster claw gloves made from pipe insulation foam for the character of Slime in Kartasi, Theatre UAF, 2003. Photo by Kade Mendelowitz.*



*Rendering for Slime in Kartasi.*

Former UAF professor, Thomas Riccio, wrote a play, Kartasi, based on computer gaming that had all sorts of improbable monsters as characters that the hero must vanquish. We needed to make a bunch of scary claw-like hands that were very cheap, which couldn't injure actors, and which wouldn't interfere with swinging big fantasy weapons around. The quickest cheapest stuff to do this with is an item every Alaskan is familiar with: foam pipe insulation. It makes for very long flexible claws that won't poke people, and which, if tangled in a weapon, simply lop off easily and safely till they can be re-glued on. We stick these onto cheap black garden gloves with hot glue, or sometimes wrap with a little duct-tape reinforcement, then paint and fabric trim the finished product to taste.

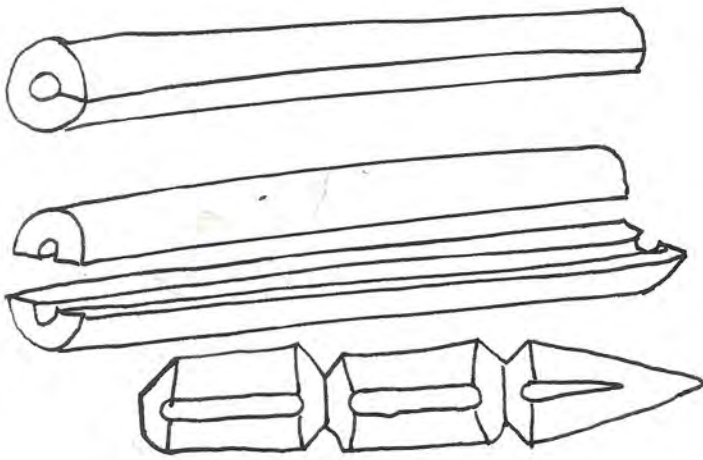


*Straight monster claw gloves made from pipe insulation foam for the female Humyuk in Kartasi, Theatre UAF, 2003. Photo by Kade Mendelowitz.*



*These owl-talon gloves by Jolene Schafer-Howell are made using a combination method using pipe foam to thicken the fingers, and foam sheets (like in the Armored Glove project) as claw tips and feathers*



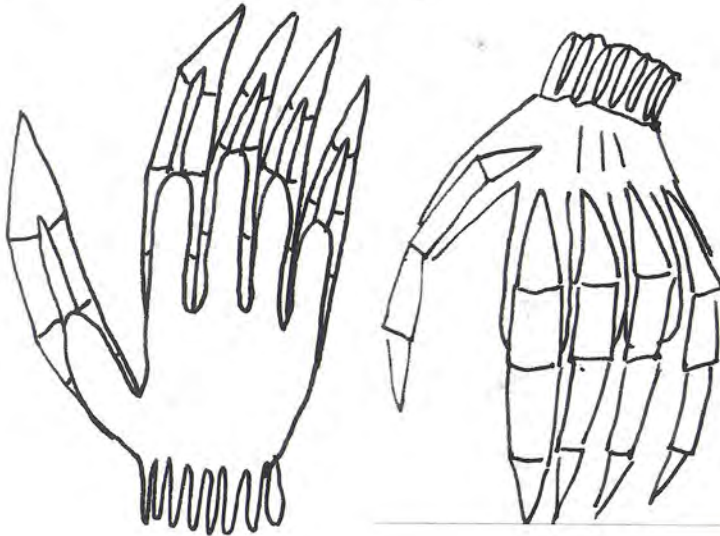


← #1: Slice the foam pipe insulation in half, lengthwise, using scissors or a box cutter.

← #2: Cut crosswise divots at places you want to add an angle or curve to the shape. Cut small divots/angles for a curve, and wider divots/angles for sharper bends. This shows a single pointed claw.



← #3: Foam is glued together at the small divots to form a curve. This shows a double pointed claw.



← #4: Individual double point foam claws are then glued to the back side of a glove. This makes the general shape of the claws, which can then be painted, textured or have fabric and other lightweight surfaces glued to it to make for different types of animal and monster claws. If the claws will be used for rough fighting on stage it is good to wrap the foam to the fingers with additional duct tape so the claws won't pop off too easily. If tape is used, extra paint or fabric will be needed to hide the tape. ✂

*Slime's Gloves, reinforced with tape, and decorated with confetti dot foil and AB organza.*





## Armored Gloves

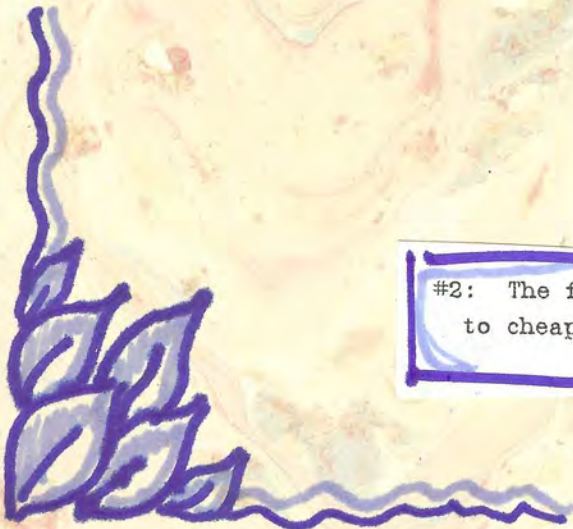


Cheap gloves can also be made into quick armored gloves, as well as other stylized creature hands by cutting and applying cut pieces from sheets of craft foam in layers. The finished product can be textured with hot glue, and painted to resemble metals or other materials to taste.

← #1: Foam sheet is cut into small "plates" for gluing to glove.



#2: The foam pieces are attached to cheap garden gloves with hot glue.







#3: Hot glue is applied as decorative texture to the foam pieces, to prepare the surface for interesting antiqued finishes.

Foam leaf decorated gloves with hot glue texture (left), and gold antiquing (right).





## Quick and Dirty Antique Gold:



← # 1:  
Paint  
surface  
dark  
brown.  
Dry.



← # 2: Dry  
brush  
copper  
or  
bronze  
over  
the  
raised  
surfaces.  
Dry.



← # 3: Dry  
brush  
gold  
paint  
on  
the  
highest  
of  
the  
raised  
surfaces,  
and  
at  
areas  
you  
wish  
to  
highlight  
or  
outline.  
Dry.



← # 4:  
Using  
black  
or  
very  
dark  
brown,  
carefully  
paint  
in  
selected  
dark  
shadows  
and/or  
outlines.  
Dry. ✂





**Quick and Dirty Antique Silver finish:**

# 1: Paint surface black. Dry. →

# 2: Dry brush blue over the raised surfaces. Dry. →

# 3: Dry brush silver paint on the highest of the raised surfaces, and at areas you wish to highlight or outline. Dry. →

# 4: Using black carefully touch up paint in selected dark shadows and/or outlines.

Touch up any highlight areas with silver to neaten the appearance of the finish. Dry.





# METAL LEAF HIGHLIGHTING

Metal antique finishes are good on stage, but to be really great, you need to add metal leaf as a glitzy highlight. Fortunately, this is mindlessly easy.

#1: Get leaf size and a packet of metal leaf in the color you need (gold, silver, copper, or variegated). Dry brush very tiny amounts of leaf size very lightly onto the tops of raised areas on your metal finished object. →



← #2: When the leaf size gets tacky and clear (within a few seconds if you did the last step thin enough), tear small pieces from a sheet of leaf and lightly stick them onto the tacky areas.



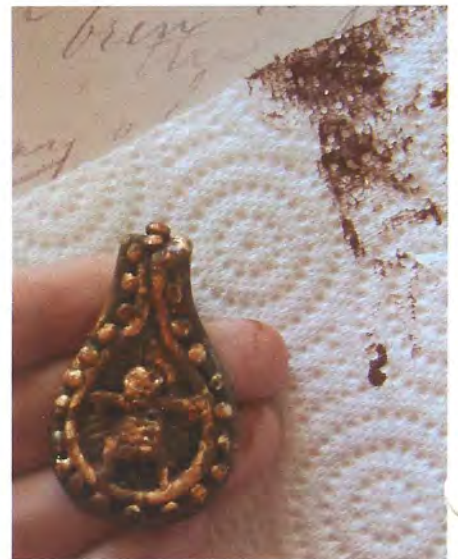
#3: Use a soft brush to shove the leaf into the size, and to brush off excess leaf. →



← #4: If the leaf seems to be too much (it often does), brush on a thin layer of brown paint (for gold or copper) or black paint (for silver).



#5: Before it dries, wipe most of it off with a paper towel. Dry. →



← #6: If you need the item to last a long time, coating the surface with gloss medium, acrylic glaze, or varnish will keep the leaf shiny longer. ✂







Gold leaf on metal finished oven-bake plasticine clay jewelry