

Make a Sleeping Fairy Baby

By Anne Gerdes



Materials & Tools

- Polymer Clay (Fimo, Sculpey, Cernit) flesh tone
- Fimo brand "Quick Mix" (to soften clay)*
- Approximately 2" square material for wings (could be of stiff iridescent mylar "ribbon", or for a natural alternative: mica. There is ribbon that is wrinkled transparent mylar (looks like plastic with a film of rainbow oil slick on it). But if you can get it, mica works well. It is a geological substance and peels or flakes into thin transparent layers.)
- X-acto knife (to cut wings)
- Super glue (to attach wings)
- Rubbing alcohol (keeps fingers, and therefore clay, clean)**
- Sculpting tool (see instructions below on how to make one)***
- Cosmetic powder blush and Q-Tip
- Approximately 2" x 3" smooth wood board or tile (to bake doll on)
- 20/0 paint brush
- Brown and pink acrylic paint (for lips and lashes)

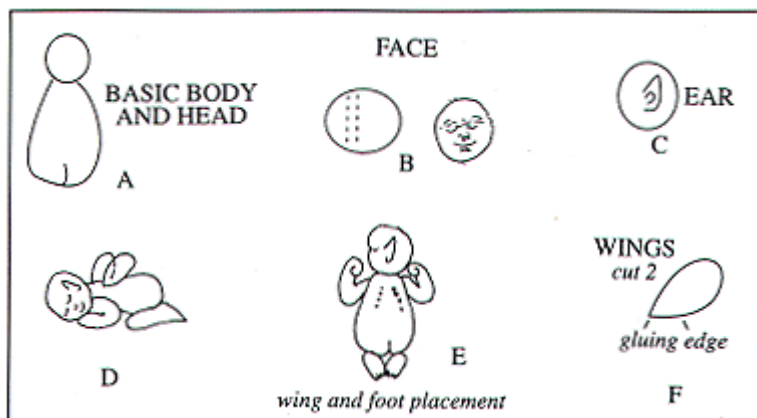
*You'll need a piece of polymer clay about the size and thickness of your thumb. To soften the clay and make it malleable, add up to 1/3 Quick Mix. Knead, blend and work together until soft and smooth.

**Because polymer clays picks up oils and dirt from "clean" hands and fingers, keep a bottle of rubbing alcohol and cotton balls handy to periodically clean your fingers. You may want to cover your work area with a piece of waxed paper before your begin.

***Sculpting Tool: To make your own tool, use a round wooden toothpick and sand one end diagonally with an emery board, slightly rounding edges as you go. Leave the other end pointed.

Sculpting the Doll

The Body and Head
Roll your clay into a flat, short cylinder, roughly the size of your thumb. Divide in half. Set one half aside for now. Form the other half into a fat tear drop. This is



your basic body shape. The narrower end is the neck, the fatter end is the rump. Crease the baby's bottom with one side of your toothpick tool. Set aside. Divide the other portion of clay in half once again. Roll one of the halves into a ball. This will be the baby's head. Gently press the ball onto the top

of the body, in the middle of the neck (see Illustration A). Lay this form "tummy down" onto your work surface.

Face

Press the side of your toothpick across the middle of the face, creating a shallow valley for the eyes and a ridge for the brows. Form a nose by pinching a tiny amount centered just below the eye crease. Press the beveled end of your toothpick under the nose to form the mouth. Press a shorter crease under the mouth -- this will form the bottom lip and chin (see Illustration B). You can adjust it to make a smile or pursed lips. Use the sharp end of your toothpick to lightly etch in half circles for closed eyes.

Ears

Take a small amount of clay from the remainder of the unused clay (about fingernail size). Form two identically sized thin, flat teardrop shapes, and lay one on the upper side of the head (pointed end "up"), in the middle, making the first ear. Using the beveled end of your toothpick, press an "ear canal" in place (see Illustration C). Repeat on the underside of the head for the other ear.

Arms, Legs & Feet

Baby's arms and legs are much shorter proportionally than older children's and adult's. Roll the clay into snake shapes about 1/4" in diameter. Cut off lengths for the arms/hands. When the body and head are in the tummy down position, press arms to the body at the neck. The top end of the arms will become the shoulders. Bend at the elbows and curl the ends into closed fists near the head (see Illustrations D & E). Make a slightly fatter snake for the legs/feet. Cut two leg lengths. Turn doll over on its back. Form the legs from knees to feet, then press them to the body, side-by-side and barely touching each other. Turn doll over on its tummy again and lay on the baking board or tile. Flatten the soles of the feet. The heels should just clear the lower curve of the baby's rump in a "tip-toe" or ballerina pose. You can press in tiny toes using the sharp end of your toothpick if you wish.

Blush

Rub scant amount of blush onto soles of feet, cheeks (both sets!), knees and elbows - even the outer edge of ears.

Wings

Cut out wings with an X-acto knife (see Illustration F). Press the ends of the wings into the doll's back, then lift them out (see Illustration E). Add a small amount of super glue to the edge of the wings, then re-insert them into the impressions you made.

Bake

Bake in your oven at 225 degrees for 30 minutes. Do NOT preheat your oven.

Finishing Touches

Once the doll has cooled you can paint the eyelashes, brows and lips as desired. Use a tiny brush and paint sparingly. Any craft/acrylic paint will do. Once I made a sunhat out of a little silk flower for one of my sleeping babies. Another time I gave one a tiny bit of newborn baby hair on the top of it's head with soft brown paint.