

Kiva Fireplace & Oven

By Terri Quillen

You can make this terra-cotta look oven from air-dry modeling compound and a plastic bottle! No experience in pottery is required, but a short trip to the hardware store is to purchase some of the supplies, including a genuine copper pipe for your "clay" stove.

What You'll Need:

- Plastic pump dispenser for liquid hand soap, approx. 5½" x 3½" (not counting height of dispenser cap)
- 2 oz. clay-colored, air-dry modeling compound (I used Crayola Model-Magic™, Terra Cotta)
- ⅝" dia. copper tube, 1⅜" long (plumbing supply department)
- 1¾" high wooden cross pendant, 6mm shaped plastic beads (flat flower and carved rose) or objects of your choice for decorative embossing
- 3" x 5" x 1" rectangle of Balsa-Foam® carving medium
- 2½" x 4¾" x ⅞" thick plastic gutter end cap (building supply department)
- Clear acrylic water-based sealer
- 1¼" x 2" x ⅛" rectangle of heavy mat board or Styrofoam
- 4" of 4mm natural cotton twine (housewares department)
- Acrylic paints: White, Gray
- Permanent ink marker pens: Green, Red (Sharpie® medium point)
- Low-temperature glue gun

Fireplace Oven

1. Rinse and dry the soap dispenser bottle thoroughly. Discard pump dispenser unit.
2. Pinch off a section of modeling compound about the size of a small lemon. Flatten it between your hands, pressing so that it becomes as thin as piecrust. Lay flattened "pie-crust" over front of bottle. Crimp it down around bottle, stretching as you go, covering as much of bottle as possible. Repeat process for back of bottle. Add modeling compound as needed to cover sides and bottom.
3. Hold copper tubing upright against lip of bottle neck. Cover with modeling compound.
4. Roll a section of modeling compound the size of a large marble between your hands to create a "rope" approximately ⅝" thick by 5" long. Curve into a C shape. Using photo as a guide, press it to front of bottle, along bottom edge. Add two more rows of rope to define the opening of the oven. Press modeling compound the size of a medium pea along center bottom edge of bottle, closing the C. Press firmly together, so clay pieces adhere to bottle and to each other.
5. Using the items shown or those of your own choosing, emboss front of fireplace by pressing the objects into the soft compound.
6. Allow the modeling compound to dry 48 hours before handling again. As the com-



ound dries, it will shrink and cracks will emerge, adding to the old world look and style of the oven.

7. Once completely dry, paint the "opening" in the oven with gray paint.

Oven Platform

1. Use gutter end cap like a cookie cutter to carve base of fireplace platform. Center the gutter cap over Balsa-Foam and press down firmly. Remove gutter cap; break off excess pieces of foam. With a dry brush or soft cloth, dust away foam crumbs.
2. Brush on two light coats of acrylic sealer; let dry completely between coats.
3. Pinch off a section of modeling compound about the size of a giant strawberry. Roll into a ball and flatten to the thickness of pie crust and use to cover top of platform. Repeat to cover bottom. Add pieces as needed to cover completely, stretching the compound as you go to ensure a close fit.

4. Use carved rose bead or object of your choice to emboss edges.

5. Let dry 48 hours before handling.

Welcome Sign

1. Following general instructions for covering bottle and Balsa-Foam with clay, cover the small rectangle of mat board or Styrofoam.

2. Let dry 48 hours before handling.

3. Paint one side only with white paint; let dry.

4. With green permanent ink marker, write the slogan, *Mi Casa es Su Casa* (My house is Your House) on the center of the rectangle. Let dry.

5. Using photos as guides, add border accents with red and green markers; let dry.

6. Glue twine as a hanging loop to top edge of sign.

Place the fireplace-oven centered or cater-corner on the platform. Hang the sign nearby or, if the fireplace is cater-corner, rest the sign on the platform leaning against the opening to the fireplace.

Although the price of precious metals has been rising sharply, the cost of the little piece of copper tubing used in this project was under \$2 when purchased in late March.



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