

Air-dry Clay Tenebrae Candle Holder

Knead your clay for about 5 minutes until it is softer and more pliable. Shape your clay into a wreath or a long log, or any shape you wish. Place your candle holder on a flat surface like a board or plate. Press candles straight down into the clay to make the holes for the candles, then remove them while clay dries. You can carve decorations or press in textures while it's still soft and smooth the clay with damp fingertips. Let it dry completely for 2-8 hours. The thicker areas will take longest. After it's dry, you can brush or spray on glaze, Mod Podge, or this DIY glaze recipe:

1. Pour a whole bottle of clear nail varnish into a bowl.
2. Add two tablespoons of clear craft glue.
3. Next add three tablespoons of bottled water and mix together. Don't worry if the mixture looks lumpy at the beginning. Keep mixing until all the ingredients come together.
3. If you've already painted your clay or textured it and want a clear glaze then stop now. The glaze looks a little cloudy but does dry clear.
4. If you want a single color tinted glaze add 1 teaspoon of your chosen acrylic paint. Or make different colors.

TIPS: Some kind of glaze is recommended if you plan to paint the clay, but you must wait for the glaze to be dry before painting. Glazing also makes the clay more moisture resistant, but it won't make it waterproof, so it can't be used with liquids or food.

Hot wax can soften or degrade the clay. Use small pieces of aluminum foil to make cups for the candle holes. The foil can also be shaped around the base of candles to make them more stable.

If you don't have a candle snuffer, take the candles out to blow them out individually.

