

CRAZY PAVING THE EASY WAY

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Requirements:

Das, Jovan or air-drying clay
2 clear plastic bags
1 stiffer quality plastic bag for texturing
"rolling pin" (dowel, fax roll, whatever)
Paper towel
Raw Umber & Burnt Umber acrylic paint
White glue



The layout has been defined on an aerothane (rigid foam) base which has been glued to a ply base.

The levels have been defined and built up, edgings have been roughly carved.

The left hand side of the path has two steps (shown marked on plastic here)

Marking:

Pin a section of clear polythene over the area to be cut and mark outlines with a marking pen.

Rolling out the clay:

- Lay the clay on a non stick surface (tape a plastic bag to your surface if necessary)
- Lay another sheet over the clay and roll out to 2 - 2.5mm thick. (Like pastry, it will have to be lifted and moved a few times)
- Remove top plastic
- Lay a crumpled plastic bag over the top and roll lightly - this gives a nice uneven texture.



Transferring the Pattern

The same method is used for the whole area of paving.

- Lay the pattern on a section of rolled out clay 2.5 to 3mm thick.
- Lightly mark out the **lower step** on the clay using a pointed tool (a ball point pen will do). Add an allowance of 5mm to go under the top step.
- Use the stylus to mark in the cracks through the plastic.
- Remove polythene
- Cut out clay with a sharp craft knife (you can sharpen the lines when the clay has begun to firm up)
- Repeat for **top step** but leave off the extra allowance.



- Apply a coating of white glue to the base. This will help to hold the clay in place and stop curling of the edges as it dries.
- It does help to weight the clay down once it has begun to set (don't do it too soon or you will flatten the detail!
- Just lay small oddments of wood of the same thickness along the path then place a book on top of these.

Note: Cracks may form, particularly on large pieces - they will normally appear along one of the scribed lines and just add character! If the cracks do seem overlarge, back fill with thinned down clay.



This is the main path with the cracks defined.

I use a selection of round tipped tapestry (chenille) needles to do my detailing on sculpting generally. Run a finger tip along the scribed areas to smooth out any jagged bits that appear while scribing. If it is slightly too dry, lick your finger tip and try again.

To give more reality to the paving, the corners of the slabs are very slightly rounded out.

As the clay dries, it will shrink away from the edge of the path slightly - this can be backfilled or edged with grass/weeds.



Painting

- Dilute raw umber with a spot of burnt umber to a runny consistency and paint this over the clay.
- Use crumpled paper towelling, while still wet, to lift off some of the paint. This will leave a residue.
- Allow to dry.
- Dilute raw umber and paint this along the cracks.
- Again lift off excess at random with paper towel.

Note: The grass is fake fur....