

CREATIVE CRAFTS

CRAB EARRINGS



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Need a crab-ulous new accessory to go with your outfit? Using polymer clay is a fun and fast way to knock up some knock-out jewellery inspired by your favourite crustacean. Don't worry if your finished products are a bit wobbly, bobbly or mismatched – they'll be unique to you, making them will be a lot of fun and you'll certainly turn heads!

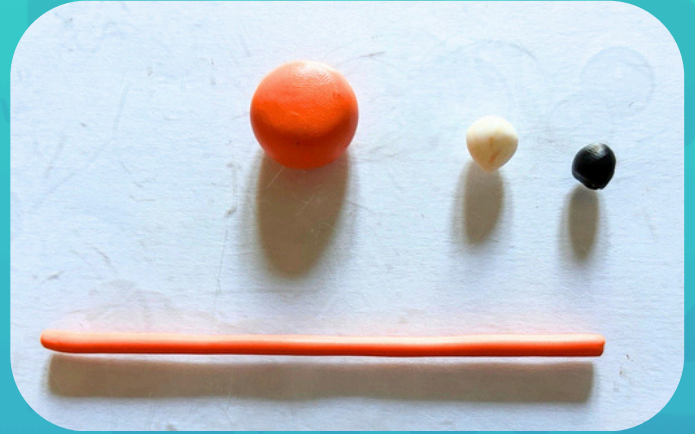
Want to make some crazy crab earrings in just a few minutes? Grab a few basic materials and let's go. You'll need:

- Polymer clay in orange, white and black – or any other colours you like! (We used oven bake clay but air dry clay would be fine)
- Liquid clay or superglue
- A smooth non-stick surface to work on, such as a clear plastic sheet
- A few basic modelling tools, or just a cutter and a cocktail stick
- Earring attachments and hooks (available cheaply from jewellery making suppliers, craft shops and online retailers)
- Wire cutters / small pliers
- A clean baking tray (if using oven bake clay)
- Remember – always be careful and supervise children when using sharp tools, glues and ovens!

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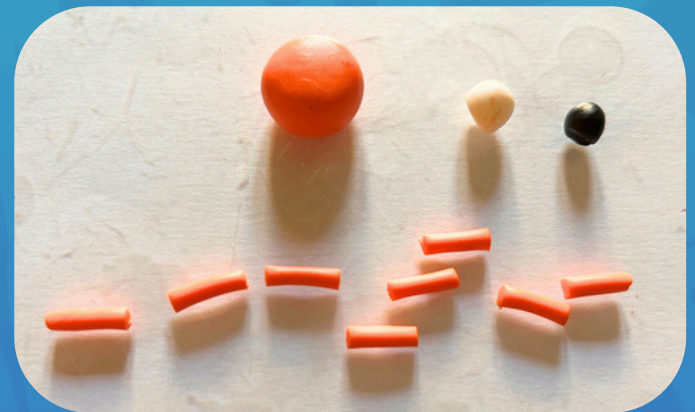
1

Roll some orange clay into a round, slightly flattened ball, about the size of a 20p piece, to make the crab's body. Using more orange clay, roll out a long thin sausage about the width of a cocktail stick. Warm up two small balls of white and black clay for the eyes.



2

Cut the orange sausage into eight equal lengths – these will become the crab's legs. (Of course, as decapod crustaceans, crabs should have 10 legs, fact fans! But today we're using some artistic licence because the earrings are quite small!)



3

Gently press six of the legs onto the body and use a small, blunt modelling tool, or cocktail stick, to join the edges.



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4

For the front legs, roll one end inwards slightly and press a line down the middle using a tool or the side of a cocktail stick, to create claws. Press onto the body and join the edges.



5

Next, tear off and roll very small balls of white clay to fashion the eyes. Press onto the body using the point of a cocktail stick – this will make it easier to add the next bits.



6

Roll even smaller balls of black clay and add to the eyeballs. Now your crab can see!



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7

Finally, add his smile... Roll a very thin piece of black clay, bend into a grin and press onto the face.



8

Cut the earring attachment wire down to the right length (it needs to go quite far into the crab's body without coming out the other side).



9

Make a small hole in the crab's body using the wire, then add a dab of liquid clay and insert the attachment into the hole. (If using air dry clay, superglue should be fine instead.) Repeat all the steps to make your second earring, then bake both in the oven carefully following the clay manufacturer's instructions.



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10

Once the clay has cooled down, use small pliers to attach the earring hooks. You can add paint, glitter or any other adornments you like, or just wear and go.

Enjoy your new bespoke, handmade jewellery!

