

cjwalas says **How's everyone's ghost assignment coming along?**

BnEgscle says It is an aberration at this point.

Torby says **Umm... Well, I was a little busy last week.**

Rick Raively says **just Great, well until I start it**

cjwalas says **I see...** 😞😞😞

BnEgscle says Chris, I finally found the

cjwalas says **Yes, Bob?**

jlcop says *I'm trying real hard to get them done before we leave.* 🤖

BnEgscle says superflex Sculpey. It is marketed as Bake & Bend Clay with the Superflex in small letters.

Rick Raively says **Bob, would you be able to do the chat log next Monday. I am 98% sure I won't make the class**

cjwalas says **Well, I was hoping to have some links to sites devoted to human expressions, but the internet is sadly deficient in examples.**

BnEgscle says OK, I'll do it Rick.

cjwalas says **For those of you who haven't started on your ghosts (but are actually planning on doing the assignment...Rick)...**

Rick Raively says **Thanks Bob** 😊😊

cjwalas says **One of the purposes of this exercise is how to convey a feeling MINIMALLY.**

cjwalas says **So keep the designs simple. Like Casper the Ghost as we said before.**

Torby says **Minimum expression?** 😊

cjwalas says **I've done two of my three and I had a hard time not adding detail.**

BnEgscle says I have a picture in my mind of what I want to do but haven't gotten there yet.

cjwalas says **Minimum features, details, and textures, Tom.** 😊 **MAXIMUM expression!**

cjwalas says **Keep in mind that the ghosts don't have to be human in form, either. A simple bed sheet style ghost works even better.**

jlcop says *Too late, I've already made the basic figures. Just faces, hands and paint left* 😊

Torby says **I have 2 of the three started. Actually, all 3, but I'm not sure I like number 3.**

cjwalas says **If you don't make a distinction between the head and body, the facial expression can encompass a larger area, extending into the chest.**

Torby says **I'm making heavy use of my detail sander to remove "details."**

cjwalas says **Fine, JL. Now you get to focus on the expressions!**

cjwalas says **Those sanding skills come in handy when doing Lemurian babes, that's for sure.**

Torby says **Hmm...**

cjwalas says **By the way, Bob, did they have more than one color in the Bake & Bend clay?**

Torby says **I used it heavily on "Jess."**

cjwalas says **Last week we left off talking about the pluses and minuses of mixing different polyclays.**

BnEgscle says Actually it comes in a pack of 8 different colors with a roller.

Torby says **So I'm making them rather undefined and plain. Instead of hands, their arms just kind of fade away.**

Torby says **Yes. I was curious about the effects of mixing A with B.**

cjwalas says **Good! That's the way they used to sell it as Super Flex as well.**

cjwalas says **As you've probably already noticed, the different colors of Premo have different textures and stiffness.**

cjwalas says **Some of the Premos don't brush out as smoothly as others, i.e. some get that fuzzy stuff when you brush them.**

Torby says **Yes. I seem to like dark Premo best.**

BnEgscake says So you mix regular Sculpey with it. I have a big block of the brick or earth color Sculpey. will that be good to mix with the Superflex/

cjwalas says **Others don't brush out as easily. This is where mixing clays can really help.**

cjwalas says **Yes, Bob. Remember that all polyclays made by Polyform Products (Sculpey, Premo, etc.) can be mixed successfully.**

cjwalas says **While regular Sculpey is much weaker, it adds an opacity and it makes brushing out the surface easier.**

cjwalas says **But the clay you come up with after mixing it with SuperFlex is usually much stronger than either of the original clays.**

cjwalas says **Likewise, the flexible polyclays (SuperFlex, Elasticlay, and Eraserclay) can be added to Sculpey, Sculpey III, Premo to make them more resilient.**

Rick Raively says **what about super Sculpey and Premo?**

Torby says **I like the baked strength of Premo. Mixing in a little superflex makes it stronger?**

BnEgscake says I've used a beige and white Superflex before for making molds. They were both very sticky. Does that go away when you add Sculpey and how much do you add to start with.

cjwalas says **Super Sculpey is a little different because it is formulated for a smoother texture. It's much more brittle. It can be mixed with the others, but the quality of the mixed clay usually suffers.**

cjwalas says **Not stronger, Tom, more flexible and therefore more resilient.**

Rick Raively says **Oh I know its brittle 😞**

Torby says **I see. That's more what I'd have expected.**

cjwalas says **You need to be cautious when mixing Sculpey with Premo or any of the flexible clays because Sculpey uses a different plasticizer than they do...**

jlcop says *maybe we need to define some terms here Chris 🤔*

cjwalas says **If you add to much too fast and generate too much warmth, the mix suddenly turns goey!**

cjwalas says **Yes, JL?**

cjwalas says **So the rule of thumb is, start with a little Sculpey at first. It's pigments are dense and you'll see a difference right away...**

jlcop says *what do you mean be stronger vs. resilient*

Torby says **I thought I'd figured out what to do with this huge pack of Sculpey III my niece gave me for Christmas 🙄**

cjwalas says **Resilient=resists impacts; more flex. Strong=structurally stronger, tougher.**

Rick Raively says **So Logboy would be Resilient**

cjwalas says Add flex clay to it, Tom. It'll help a lot. If you use Eraserclay it may actually make it stronger. Eraserclay has more body to it.

Rick Raively says **while JL would be Stronger, tougher**

Torby says **hehe I remember a conversation with my Dad 40some years ago where I concluded that "Soft Plastic" was better suited to little boy's toys 'cause it didn't get broken as easily.**

cjwalas says Not the examples I would choose, LB.

cjwalas says Strength is not the only reason to mix clays.

Rick Raively says **I guess Gill is very resilient** 😊

cjwalas says I mix clays for color. I find I like a murky and opaque brown or green a lot of the time, so I mix it.

Torby says **And this idea of adding a LITTLE Sculpey to the Premo to make it easier to brush out sounds useful. Might reduce sanding** 😊

cjwalas says No, Gill is strong, tough. I have to be resilient! 😊

cjwalas says Sculpey III might work even better, Tom. It's a little finer grain for greater detail.

Torby says **I see, so any school brat that made fun of her name and called her "Gilligan" better watch out.**

cjwalas says Also, I have a hard time working with some of the blue and purple Premos. I think they need more body. So I add some Premo white. White is a very dense and strong pigment and it helps the Premo a lot.

Torby says **I expect that's what I actually have here.**

Torby says **Hmm. Blue Premo seems to be my favorite. I'll try that.**

cjwalas says It wouldn't help if they did, Tom. There's been no survivors so far.

Rick Raively says **being using a lot of brown Premo**

cjwalas says There are two blues, if I remember. The more translucent one is the one I mean.

cjwalas says Brown's a good color; easy on the eyes and it has a good texture.

Torby says **This one isn't at all translucent!**

Rick Raively says **the Turquoise one Chris?**

cjwalas says That's the good one, Tom. No problem with that one.

BnEgscake says Starting with a 1/2 pack of Superflex, how much Sculpey would you add to start?

cjwalas says The turquoise Premo has the white pigment in it that I'm talking about.

Torby says **I initially thought I'd use Sculpey for the ghosts as they didn't have any fine details. But where they trail off into wisps IS a fine detail and kept getting broken off.**

cjwalas says Well, Bob, here's where it gets subjective. I'd start with no more than the equivalent of an eighth of a Premo pack of the Sculpey and mix it in slowly.

cjwalas says I tried using just Sculpey for the ghosts as well, same problem.

cjwalas says The thing about mixing Flex and Sculpey is that you don't really know what the baked clay will be like until you've done it a couple of times.

cjwalas says While the Sculpey will add body to the Flex, it will ultimately weaken its integral strength.

Torby says **I rather discovered that their lack of detail IS fine detail.**

Rick Raively says **Chris, would it be ok to bring the second sitting hobo figure on Sunday**

cjwalas says **That would be great, Rick. Bring anything you want!**

cjwalas says **While the Sculpey will add body to the Flex, it will ultimately weaken its integral strength.**

cjwalas says **I always do a small test when I'm mixing clays, just to check the finished qualities.**

cjwalas says **I've mixed polyclays from different manufacturers with mixed results.**

cjwalas says **The Polyform Product line seems to hold its strength better than others.**

Rick Raively says **good point Chris, do a small test piece and not a whole project when mixing clays**

cjwalas says **Any questions so far, or is everyone finally asleep?** 😊

cjwalas says **You'll get a feel for mixing clays fairly quickly, but it's hard to describe without having some in front of me.**

Rick Raively says **I would hate to have some clay mess up my figure** 😬

Rick Raively says **I do enough of messing of the figures..hehehehe**

Torby says **Last week, Chris described making a test piece to decide how bendy he wanted it to be.**

Torby says **I think for now, I might try mixing a little to brush out easier as I often have trouble with that, but might not do a lot.**

cjwalas says **That's right. I just did that yesterday with another mix. The piece I do looks like a tadpole with a round tail and the head part flattened, or maybe a pancake with a tail.**

cjwalas says **I put a curve in both the pancake and the tail to see how well the clay holds its shape while baking..**

cjwalas says **Dana says howdy doody**

Rick Raively says **Hi Dana the great**

Torby says **That's why I sand. Just can't get nice rounded parts by forming or brushing out** 😊

Torby says **Evening, Dana!**

Rick Raively says **Really Chris, does your girls laugh at us? I know they can make figures**

cjwalas says **Dana is just leaving to do her homework!!!!** 😊

cjwalas says **No, not at all, Rick. Well, yes, but just you!** 😊

Torby says **If she doesn't laugh at me, I'd worry about her!**

cjwalas says **When my tadpole is baked and cooled, I flex the tail to see how much flex it has, then I snap the pancake to see how strong it is.**

cjwalas says **Once you start mixing clays, you'll have a lot more control over finding the right "feel" for the clay.**

Torby says **And then when you get one you like, you can't remember which recipe it was** 😊

cjwalas says **That is EXACTLY the problem, Tom!** 😬

BnEgyscale says **From there adding more Premo adds strength and reduces flexibility?**

cjwalas says **But the funny thing is, I've been doing it so long, I instinctively mix what I want without thinking about it.**

cjwalas says **Yes, but remember that all Premos are not created equally...**

cjwalas says **The more translucent colors (including the glow-in-the-dark) are more flexible because of finer or less pigment...**

Torby says **And the thing I really like about this "Ultramarine Blue" Premo is small details have enough strength not to be busted off all the time.**

cjwalas says **While the very opaque or metallic (pearlescent) clays are stiffer because of larger pigment.**

cjwalas says **Tom, you really need to start mixing materials on a figure; basics out of Premo, fine detail out of a Flex clay. It makes a huge difference!**

Torby says **Eye sea.**

cjwalas says **Now I almost always make very fine details (fingers, flying hair, etc.) out of a flex clay. Premo is strong, but the fine stuff still breaks.**

Torby says **I'll have to find some flex clay next time I'm near a Michael's.**

cjwalas says **Or elasticlay. Eraserclay is a little tougher to sculpt with.**

cjwalas says **OK, any questions on this stuff?**

Rick Raively says **no, my head is spinning enough**

Torby says **Elasticlay...**

cjwalas says **Get off that record player, Rick!**

cjwalas says **Elasticlay is harder to find than SuperFlex/Bend&Bake, but I find it remains more flexible. Superflex will stiffen slightly in time.**

cjwalas says **OK, class dismissed!** 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Rick Raively says **Night Chris, thanks again**

Rick Raively says **Oh NO**

Rick Raively says **I am slipping.. Not one "go to the corner" tonight**

cjwalas says **See you next week (except Rick!)** 😞

jlcop says **Thanks again Chris!** 🙄

Torby says **G'night, Chris!**

cjwalas says **I'm saving that one for Sunday, Rick!** 😄😄😄😄😄😄😄 **Nite!** 🍷