

4th of July USA flag Millefiori Cane

by Iris Mishly
Photos – Iris Mishly



For all you who wants to make a nice cane for the american independence day (or just for fun) – a USA flag!

Materials:

Working space, clean and smooth (ceramic/glass tile is great)

Clay in 4 colors: blue, red, white, black

Cutting blade

Square cookie cutter (size – 4 cm / 1.5 inch * 4 cm / 1.5 inch)

Star cookie cutter (size from side to side – 3 cm or 1+1/4 inch)

Roller

Ruler

Pasta machine

Pasta Machine

There are few brands of pasta machines; some are different in setting then others.

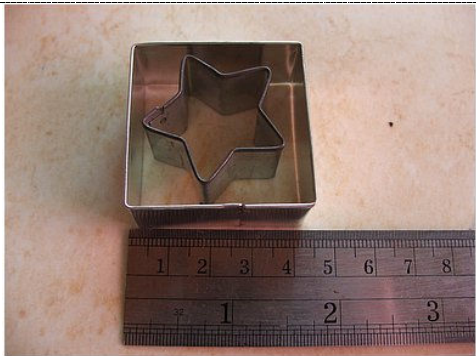
When I mention thickest setting choose yours accordingly whether it's 1 or 9.



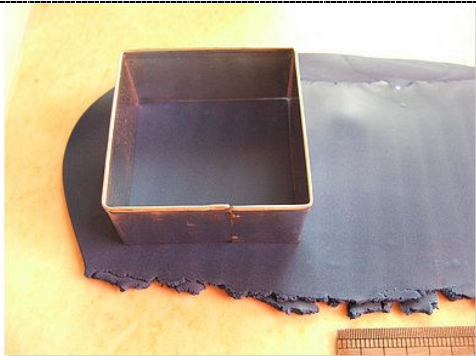
Step 1: choose your blue clay for the project; I mixed 2 colors of clay.



Step 2: mixed color



Step 3: take your 2 cookie cutters: a square and a star. These cutters will make the star cane showed in the flag.



Step 4: condition your blue clay on the thickest setting. Cut 5 squares using the cutter.



Step 5: like this



Step 6: stack the 5 squares one on the other.

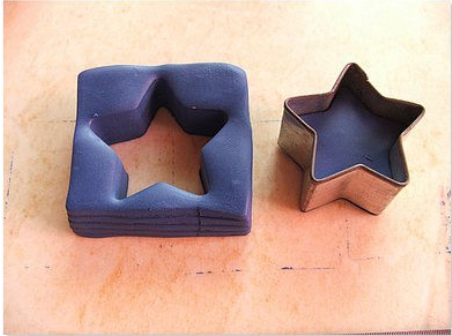
If you wonder why 5, this size is just the right size for the star cookie cutter to cut through.



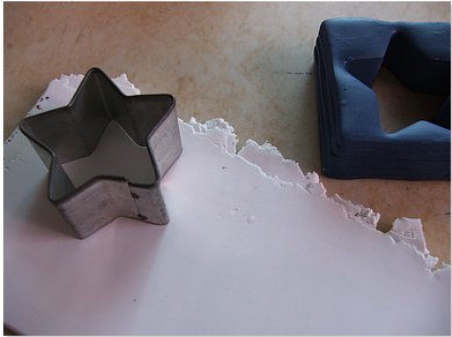
Step 7: press them a bit to attach all layers together.



Step 8: take the star cookie cutter and cut in the middle of the blue layered stack.



Step 9: take the star cookie out.



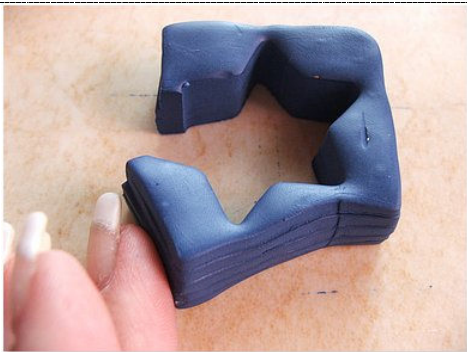
Step 10: condition white clay to the thickest setting. Cut 5 stars from the white clay.



Step 11: like this
Stack them on on the other like we did with the blue squares.



Step 12: cut an “opening door” for inserting the star to the square blue layered clay.



Step 13: like this



Step 14: insert the star inside.



Step 15: close the “door”.



Step 16 – reduce the cane a bit



Step 17: cut edges of the cane. This action is optional but is helping to avoid large amount of scrap clay and leftovers.



Step 18: reduce the cane



Step 18: I reduce to 20 cm (8 inch) and cut in half.

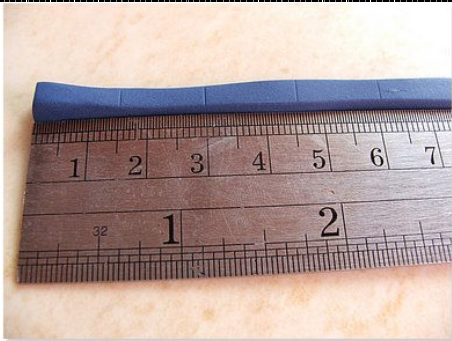


Step 19: continue reducing your canes to 4/5 long canes and cut each accordingly to a final amount of 50 stars for the flag.



Step 20: I reduced the star cane to 4 parts, each part was cut to 13 pieces, each piece is 1.5 cm or 5/8 inch.

$$13 * 4 = 52 \text{ (2 extra stars)}$$



Step 21: Like this



Step 22: starting to build the cane



Step 23: Final cane is finished, now to fill the gaps between the stars, use a bit of blue clay.
Roll to a thin snake



Step 24: flat the blue roll snake with your fingers. Insert in the gaps.



Step 25: Like this



Step 26: here are the sizes of the final cane – width



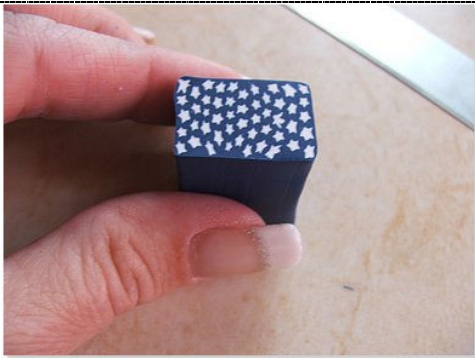
And height.



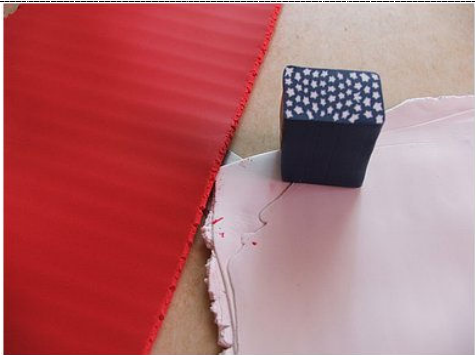
Step 27: Reduce a bit



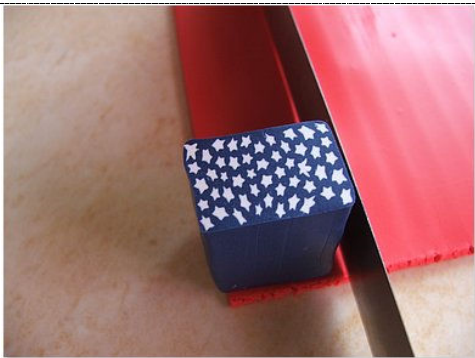
Step 28: cut edges of the cane. This action is optional but is helping to avoid large amount of scrap clay and leftovers.



After reduced.



Step 29: condition your white and red clay to the thickest setting



Step 30: measure the width of the cane and cut a slice from the red clay



Step 31: match the red and white sheets.
We are building a stripes cane to match the size of the star cane.
Repeat 3 times with red clay and 2 times with the white clay.
Stack them.



Step 32: place the stripes cane next to the star cane.



Step 33: Now to the wide stripes cane on the bottom of the flag
Place white sheet of clay (thickest setting)



Step 34: cut to match size of both star cane and previous stripes cane.



Step 35: repeat again with red clay..



Step 36: again with white



Step 37: final cane.



Step 38: you can wrap your cane with solid color or you can use a stripes sheet.

For this sheet I took a pre-made black and white stripes cane and slice it to thin slices.



Step 39: Place on a background color you conditioned to a thin setting possible (I used leftovers from the blue color).



Step 40: Roll with a roller to flatten and attach all slices together.



Step 41: roll in the pasta machine, starting from thickest setting and slowly moving to the thinnest possible.



Step 42: after the stripes sheet is ready, cut a sheet to match size of the cane for wrapping around.



Step 43: wrap all around.



Like this



Step 44: cut edges of the cane. This action is optional but is helping to avoid large amount of scrap clay and leftovers.



Final cane.

Happy 4th of July!



Good luck! 😊

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