Paper Clay Bowls with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Paper Clay Bowl
(cheerful music) - Hey everybody. Welcome to Creative Bug. We're coming at you live like we always do on Tuesday and Thursdays. And guess what? Today is the last Thursday in our current studio space. It's a huge momentous day for us. We've been in this space for about two years. We're really excited for our new digs. We can't wait for you to see them. What you can't see on camera right now is that I'm surrounded by hundreds of boxes. There are even more in the hallway. And if you've seen any of our live shoots or any of our other videos that show the craft room, it might just give you an idea of what we've been doing all week long. In addition to shooting and editing and filming, we've also been packing up all the glue sticks and all the ribbons and all the fabric and all the delightful stuff that we use to make things and show you how to make things. Today we're doing one last tutorial in this space. I thought I'd show you how to play with paper clay, make some freeform bowls and how to add some gold leaf accents. And then next week while we're actually moving, I'm gonna be at Plaid's offices in Atlanta and we're gonna be doing an hour long paint along with me. We're gonna do a modern floral and we'll talk more about that at the end of the live shoot. I'll remind you guys. So how many of you out there have played with paper clay? There are a couple of brands. It's sort of like paper mache, but like if you put it in the blender so it feels like clay, it's made out of paper and water and probably a few other little things. It air dries. So it usually takes between one to three days to fully air dry and harden depending on the thickness of your project. I'm using Creative Paperclay, but I also really like the DAS brand. It comes in a white package and you can use either for this project or maybe you know of a different paper clay. Write it in and let us know. So first we're gonna just kinda knead it into a ball. If you've watched or have any other experience with clay itself, this process is the same regardless if you're using actual clay or paper clay. And you could do this with FIMO polymer clay. You could also do this with regular clay. So I'm using paper clay because it's easy to use and I like it and I like the effect. I'm using the last little tiny rolling pin I hadn't already packed up. I don't even know where this came from. Flipping it over. I'm trying to just kind of maintain an even pressure. If your paper clay is fresh outta the package like mine, it may be a little moist and stick to things, so don't try to roll it too too thin initially. And because we're gonna be making a bowl or a platter, we don't want it super thin anyway. If you've seen my holiday paper clay ornament class, a few years back now, you could be rolling it a little bit thinner and you could be cutting it out with cookie cutters. But the paper clay is really fun to work with. So once you have, this is probably about a quarter of an inch thick, it's rolled out pretty nicely. You have a couple of options. If you wanna make a little bowl, you can find a bowl you already have and just slump it over the back. These are some paper bowls that we have in our kitchen and I'm just gonna slump it over. And then with my hands, I'm gonna gently start molding the sides up of this little tiny dish. I'm not gonna make a full bowl. If I wanted to, I would've rolled out a much larger piece, started with a bigger ball. Instead, I wanna make a little dish, but I do want it to have a little bit of a lip. And because you're going from a flat surface, the bottom of the bowl onto the curved sides, you're gonna get like rippling. And so you're really just manipulating the clay with your hands. I'm twisting the bowl, and you can see before I was getting like this funny fan tableclothy effect, but as I manipulate it, starting to lie down nicely over the edges. And then you just wanna take a sharp knife. I've got just a plastic knife here and I'm just gonna trim. I'm actually gonna use the back of the

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knife because the other side has little serrated edges and it's catching. - [Liana] While you're smoothing that out, can you tell Claudia what is paper clay? - Hi Claudia, welcome. The question. Oops, I got a little nick in there. I'll just smooth that out. Claudia's asking, "What is paper clay?" And it's kind of like, if you imagine paper clay, sorry, paper mache from when you're a kid, but like at the most professional level because it's really smooth. It is actually paper and water and probably few other materials, but it's been blended up or mushed up or however they make it. And it's really, really smooth. It acts and behaves just like regular clay but you don't need to bake it. Instead it can air dry and it dries within one to three days depending on your project and the thickness. So I dunno if you guys can see that. I'm just gonna kind of rotate it and see how my edges are. Now what I love about the look of this is actually I prefer like an irregular edge. You could get really precise. I would make your ball and your kind of form bigger so that you can continue to cut away if you want something to be really precise. But I like an irregular shape and some raw edges because we're gonna gold leaf that. So I feel like the gold leaf is the fancy finite thing and the shape of the paper clay is a little more rough and I like that contrast. - [Liana] Okay, a couple more questions for you. - [Courtney] Yeah. - [Liana] Well Bonnie wants to know do you buy this? - Hi Bonnie, welcome. And do you buy this? Yes, it comes in a package. It's reusable. This one is Creative Paperclay. I also really like the DAS brand. That's D-A-S. It comes in a white package. You can find that at your local JOANN. And I just use a small bowl, probably, sorry, a small ball, probably about 1/5 of the package. If you keep this really nicely air tightly sealed, it will last a little while so you don't have to do all your projects at once. But I recommend like once you're in the mode, just go ahead and find a few different shapes. I'm using a paper bowl here as the thing to slump my clay over to make this form. But you can use any existing bowl in your house. The nice thing about the paper clay is it'll just release off of whatever it is that you're using. So. - [Liana] Can you also tell them where they can buy paper clay? - Paper clay, you can get at your local craft store. I got mine at JOANN. And like I said, you know, I'm trying to think of what aisle it's in. It's probably with the kids stuff. There is a Crayola overnight dry clay. It's not made out of paper though. I'm not sure what it's made out of. It's very light and airy. I used to use it to make mushrooms when I worked at Anthropologie, like making hundreds of mushrooms for display. And it's really fun to work with. You can do exactly this project with that, but it acts a little bit different. Look for paper clay or DAS clay, which is an air dry clay, also made of paper. So this actually needs to stay on here for one to three days. It's gonna become whiter and brighter. I wanna show you one other thing too before I forget though, but let me show you just kind of what these look like once they dry. I don't know if you can hear it, but they're (light tapping) really lightweight. They feel almost like a porcelain and they are fragile. You can seal them. Once they're dry you can paint them with any medium, watercolor, acrylic. You would wanna seal it or varnish it depending on what you're using it for. This is not for food safe stuff. This is for holding keys, jewelry, any other kind of craft project or home decor would be fine. - [Liana] Martha wants to know if it's waterproof. - Hi Martha, welcome. It's not waterproof unless you varnish it with some kind of oil-based waterproof material. And the packaging does recommend that you varnish it for long-term use. We're gonna do gold leaf. It doesn't make it exactly waterproof but it will be water resistant up to a point. Good questions. I wanna show you one other thing. So this was wet. You can see it's this natural kind of tone. It dries much whiter. This has been drying, it dried for about a day and then I took it off. This one was on a plate and this one was on a plate too, but I cut it smaller and then I put burlap in it. And I wanna show you how to get a texture like that. So before you do your slumping, if we go back to our original, make your ball and then roll it out. I wanna show you how you can add texture. Now because this is starting to dry, I am getting a little bit of cracks and so

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forth, that will show through in the final. But you can smooth it out with your finger. You could add a tiny bit of moisture on your finger, a little bit of water. But before you do the water, I would try just smoothing it out with your finger if you're worried about any cracks. You may also be rolling it too thin. So think about that. Your project, you don't want it to be super, super thin, especially if you're making a plate or a bowl. So I have just kind of a rough circle here, but I wanna show you how you can add texture. This is a doily I picked up in like the 99 cent. You know like when you go to JOANN and there's that lovely display as you're waiting in line that makes you be like, oh, it's only 99 cents. I need that. That's where this doily came from. So I always have these things on hand for printing. - [Liana] You didn't crochet it yourself, Courtney? - Um, this is my dirty little craft secret. I don't know how to knit or crochet and I'm not going to. (Liana chuckling) So yeah. So I'm gently pressing. Like I mentioned, when I'm working with the paper clay right out of the package, it's pretty moist initially. And I don't want to grind my fabric or my doily right into the paper clay 'cause I wanna be able to release it. I am applying a little bit of pressure to pick up that texture. And I'm just gonna check. I feel like I need to do a little more here. I don't wanna see clay smushing out. That's not the idea. Ooh, yes. I love the way that looks. Now this could be like a trivet or something, especially if you varnished it. Maybe you could make like a plant stand. Like I said, they're not waterproof, they're water resistant once you varnish them. So it depends on how much you over water your plants. But you could do lots of interesting things with these textures. You can make paper weights or it would be really beautiful to do like name cards or something for a special dinner. But you can also just play with like cutting it. Let's say I want the really organic shape, but then I want like a hard and finite edge. So you're not limited, which I really like. And then you do wanna carefully peel it up now that you've pressed it down. You wanna maintain as much of that texture as you can and then set it off to the side to let it dry. And again, like I mentioned earlier, it will become white after drying one to three days, depending on the thickness of your project and where you live. So this is what things look like once they're dry. I'll move that guy. I even did this when I slumped this over a bottle. Like I'm not really sure what I would use this for. Maybe a chopstick rest or a paintbrush rest actually would be really nice. That could be super fun. So you can kind of play with these fun forms. But I wanted to also show you how you could add gold leaf because I think it's a really nice accent to this super clean white chalky base, is adding this metallic gold leaf. And I know some of you out there have played with gold leaf because we've done gold leaf in our live shoots before. I'm just gonna baby wipe my hands because next I'm gonna pick up some gold leaf, which is very delicate. - [Liana] And while you're wiping your hands, you have several people who wanna know if you can make your own paper clay, like using recycled paper. - Can you make your own paper clay? And the answer is probably yes. I've never done it, but I'm sure you can find a tutorial out there on how to do it. I'm gonna guess that it requires little bits of paper, a blender, water, something similar to how you would make your own paper by using other paper bits. But there's probably some other thing in there. I don't know if it's starch or some kind of detergent that kind of emulsifies and binds everything together. But you know what, we'll check on that and maybe that'll be a future live shoot. Also, don't these look just like angel wings. I just noticed those pieces I cut off. They're just sitting over to the side. That'd be so cool for something else. I don't know what. Okay, so now, moving on from the paper clay, our form is dry. How do we add this fabulous gold leaf detail? The things for that they need are gold leaf. It's imitation gold and it is actual metal. It's hammered into these really fine delicate sheets. And if you guys have watched some of our other live shoots, I've shown you how to apply this before. You can apply it onto wood, the paper clay, like we're doing, canvas, almost anything. Super, super delicate. These are, these peach sheets come

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between each leaf of gold. Hopefully Gino is giving you a great view of that. They're super fine and delicate. So I've got that kind of waiting off to the side. And the way that you make it adhere is you need to use gold leaf sizing or gold leaf glue. Do not substitute it with something else because it's not gonna work as well. I know you're gonna ask me and I'm anticipating that question. You really do need to use the gold leaf sizing. And you can see that this one's been very well loved. It looks white like glue, but it will dry clear. And I had a paintbrush here. Oh yes. I was using a paintbrush earlier. This is not my tea. This is actually just hot water. And I stuck my paintbrush in the little pour spout here to keep it from pressing into the bottom. But this is a cup of really hot water because the gold leaf sizing is super sticky and it will ruin your brushes if you don't wash them out. So make sure you wash them with soap and water when you're done. If you're having a hard time getting your gold leaf bottle open, ours has been used a lot and it tends to seal itself. I just make sure that I put it in some boiling water upside down to loosen the cap. All right. Now usually when you paint on gold leaf sizing, it takes a while to dry. It could be 10 or 15 minutes. Because we're working on the raw paper clay, it's pretty absorbent and it dries like within a minute or two. It goes on thin. Actually, let's do a different design. Let's do, let's just do half this. You could tape this out if you wanted like a really crisp edge. You can use any fine bristled brush for this. Don't use your best brush. Use a craft brush because like I said, if you're not really diligent about washing it out, you will ruin your brush. I honestly am using the only brush I didn't already pack up. So this happens to be a Filbert. You could use a round brush, but it's an inexpensive craft brush. It's not my best watercolor brush. And I'm painting it on. I'm trying to avoid ripples, puddles, pools. Like that, you might think, oh, I wanna just do it super thick. This will take forever to dry. And when you go to the next step, your gold leaf will not stick. So you really want it to fully dry. Don't have puddles. Like I said, because we're working on the raw paper clay, which is dried, it's very absorbent so this will actually be dry pretty soon. And you can see. - Katie Jo was wondering, do these bowls and plates break easily once they're dried? - Katie Jo, hi, welcome. Question is, do these plates and bowls break easily once they're dried? They are fragile. They feel a bit like porcelain. The thicker you do them, the more resilient they'll be. And it does say on the packaging that they recommend varnishing after for kind of aggressive use. That will also help with breakage. If you're worried about it, make it really thick and make it part of your design. I'm just gonna be careful with mine. Okay. It's one coat. I just wanna make sure I've gotten everything. This is really close to being dry and ready. We're gonna set it off to the side though for extra good measure. The sizing really does need to be dry. This brush is gonna go back into my boiling water. We'll do it this way. Just gonna stick the brush in there to hold it. Set that aside. And I've got one that I painted earlier. And it's dry. Now it's still a little bit satin shiny, but it's not wet. And if you touch it, you can feel that it's a little tacky. And that's what it should be like. There are a couple spots where I might have missed. And you know what? We'll just see if the gold leaf sticks. If it doesn't stick, that's okay. You can always apply more sizing, wait for it to dry and then apply more gold leaf. All right. Try to make your hands dry before you touch the gold leaf because this gold leaf sticks to any and everything. And actually, fine restorers gold leaf users will often, especially if they're a man and they have a beard, they'll take the brush and they'll rub it on their beard or rub it on their shirt to get static, build static energy and then actually pick up the gold leaf with the brush. I'm not gonna do that. I have the wrong brush for that. I'm just gonna use my hands. But you can see this is super, super delicate. If I have any sizing on my hands, it's gonna stick to my fingers. And I'm just gonna lay it down carefully onto the sizing that is already dry and pat it down. Now you can do a soft brush to burnish, but then you're gonna need a stiff brush to peel up all the gold leaf that's not sticking to the sizing. So you can save this. It does have a slightly different look when you start

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to piece together your gold leaf as opposed to just laying a nice flat sheet on it. You can see it's loving to stick to my fingers 'cause they're still a little bit damp. I might try to save that. Some of it. And it looks a little bit messy at the moment, but this is where the stiff brush is gonna come in handy. I'm gonna fold that away. I just like using a stencil brush. I had to trim this one because Faith used it for her peshawar class and it had dye on the end. Now, if I was just going to do this, the dye doesn't matter. But because I have this really raw, pristine white, anything that has a little bit of tint or paint on it will come off and stain your paper clay. So make sure you have a new brush or really, really clean brush. Now I'm just gonna use that stiff brush to really wipe away that edge and reveal my perfect circle that I painted earlier, or as perfect as I can get. And it's like super magic because it looked so messy. And honestly, the only thing that the gold is gonna stick to is where that sizing is. Now, if you have any skips, let me just kind of wipe this away because I've got a lot of gold dust everywhere. Oh my God, it looks so clean and amazing. Look at that. Ah, it's delicious. I have to admit that I might be a sucker for the gold circle because I have a shop and this is, we have a giant gold leaf circle behind our register. It looks just like this, but it's like six feet across. And yes, we did it all by hand in exactly the process I'm showing you. You can do this straight onto the wall. Don't ask me how you get it off, but you can put it straight onto the wall. Okay, so you can seal this. I love the look of the really beautiful burnish gold with the raw matte of this kind of paper clay. It is gonna be more fragile. I think Betty Jo was asking me that earlier. It is gonna be more fragile. You can varnish it. If you use some kind of sealant, it will help with the resistance and the staining over time. If you are throwing your keys onto something like this, it's gonna get dirty and tarnished and nicked. So you might as well do the varnish. It just depends on your use. So I have some other ones here. And. - Valerie had a good question earlier in the broadcast. She wanted to know if you can sand the edges. - Oh, Valerie's asking, can you sand the edges? Yeah, you totally can. You can file them, you can sand them. You could come with a nail file. Actually that might work really well. You do wanna wipe it down so it's free of dust if you're gonna be painting on it or adding the gold leaf. Excellent question. I love the raw edge, but that's totally just my preference. I think originally I wanted to do these with cement and I felt like that was kind of clunky and hard. I wanted something a little bit more delicate, especially if you're gonna try to do something like the doily or the burlap design that wouldn't work with cement as well. So I like the paper clay, I like the raw edge, but you can totally sand it down. So here are a few others with the gold leaf and you can put anything in it. Like I was thinking, it would just be nice to put your jewelry in. It's really pretty. But keys would be fine. If you're giving like a gift of soap or something small, homemade candy, you can put it in something like this and make a really beautiful package. I mean really, it's just a super fun thing to play with. And you could experiment with shapes, you could experiment slumping your forms over existing things you have in your house. This isn't dry yet, so it's still stuck. And then you can play with the gold leaf. But you could also, like I said, watercolor this once it's dry. You can also use acrylic paint. There's so many things you can do with it. Now as far as you're sizing, you do wanna seal it up. Mine is a crazy mess because it gets a lot of use here in the studio. I probably should have oiled, just run my finger with a little bit of olive oil around the outside before I put the cap back on. But it's way beyond that point. So if you have a stuck cap, remember my tip for earlier, just put it upside down inside a jar of hot water and it'll come off really easily. So you guys, that's our last live shoot in the studio. We're actually moving on Sunday and I kid you not, I'm surrounded by hundreds of boxes. We of course love all of our live shoots with you. We love all of your engagement and all of your questions. Thank you for tuning in. Join us on Tuesday because I'm gonna be at Plaid doing a live painting party. You can check out the Facebook event on Plaid's Facebook page. They already have

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the materials listed for what you'll need to paint along with me. And we'll be going live at 7:30, which is 4:30 our time. Yes, Liana? - [Liana] Yes. - 4:03 our time instead of 4:00, like our normal live shoots. But join us then. And then when you see us a week from today, next Thursday, we'll be in our new digs and hopefully it'll look awesome. We'll see you then. (cheerful music)

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