

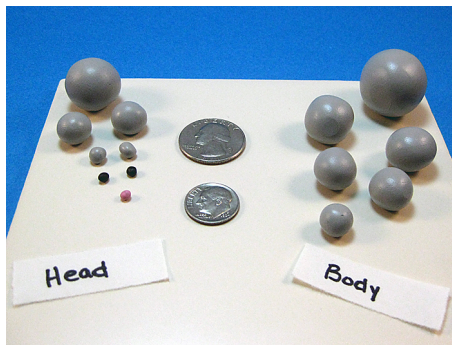
Materials:

(For demonstration purposes, Sculpey III or Bake Shop are fine; I recommend Premo! for your more professional sculpting endeavors)

- 2 oz. polymer clay of any bunny color you'd like *(Note: if you're new to clay or sculpting, I recommend picking mid to dark tones as light colors tend to contaminate easily with other colors and debris. This can be both frustrating and a distraction to just having fun.)*
- 1 oz. each of the following colors:
 - black
 - white
 - pink
- Toothpicks

Tools:

- pasta machine
- tissue blade
- small craft knife
- needle tool
- small or medium knitting needle
- ceramic tile or work surface
- your hands



Roll out parts of the bunny sculpture as shown. You will need 6 balls, 1 large for the torso, 2 for the back feet and 2 for the front feet. Don't forget to roll a ball for your bunny's tail.

The head will be slightly smaller than the torso, and you will need 2 small balls of black for the eyes and 1 pink for the nose.



Shape your sculpture by pressing one side of the ball between the blades of your hands to form into an egg or teardrop. The back feet will be elongated teardrops. Create drumsticks for the front legs/paws. Push half of a toothpick down into the top of the torso, leaving about 1/4 an inch of it exposed to attach the head later.

For the hind feet, pinch the pointed end into a right angle and then flatten the wide end into the pad of the foot. You can use your needle tool here to create toes by pressing 2 lines into the tops of the pad (see Fig. 3). Firmly press the pointed end you bent earlier against the wide end of the rabbit torso and do the same for the second foot, placing it beside the first. If adhesion is a problem, try using a bit of Sobo craft glue or liquid polymer clay.

Place one drumstick small end up on each side of the torso starting near the base of your toothpick. Again, if adhesion is a problem, use liquid polymer clay or a dab of craft glue. You can create paws with your needle tool or simply flatten the ball end of your drumstick slightly.

Press the bunny tail into the torso on the opposite side from the hind feet.

Set the body aside to assemble the head.



With the pads of your index fingers, press 2 dents into the ball of clay set aside for your bunny head, offsetting them just above center. If your clay is soft and warm, you can pick it up and reform the back by pushing gently with your thumb or index finger. Flatten your black clay slightly and press one into each indentation. Take the 2 smallest (dominant) colored balls of clay from earlier (see Fig. 1) and flatten them against your work surface. Press them together using enough pressure to form slight teardrops at the top. This is your whisker patch. Center it below the eyes of your bunny at the widest end of your offset. Press the ball of pink clay into the whisker patch right where the teardrop end meets the head so that it adheres to both. Press and form to your liking, but be gentle, distorting it can be difficult to repair.



Carefully poke two holes into the top of your bunny head, just behind center, using your needle tool or a narrow knitting needle. You can locate the holes by aligning them with the eyes. Here, I've gone ahead and shaped the ears by rolling the balls into elongated teardrops, flattening them, and using my knitting needle to create a channel down their middles. Pinch an end of each into a point and push those into the holes. It's a good idea to use a bit of craft glue or liquid polymer clay to ensure good adhesion.

Once your ears are complete, press your bunny head onto the body making sure it is centered on the toothpick.



Pose your bunny and shape your ears. Outside support can be achieved with a variety of tools, empty toilet tissue rolls, coffee cups, wooden blocks, etc. Be VERY aware of what you are putting into your oven, especially if you're using a toaster oven as the elements cycle on and off and can ignite a fire if objects are too close. Use a timer and bake according to the manufacturer's instructions as different clays may have different temperatures. Use of an oven thermometer is recommended to ensure even baking temperatures.

