



**Glowing Annie Clay Angel
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Materials:

2 oz. pkg. dusty rose, violet, luminescent polymer clay
2' of 28-gauge gold wire or smaller
14" of 18-gauge pink plastic-coated wire
2-1/2" x 1-3/4" cardboard
oven
flat smooth tile or marble work surface
small clay-only aluminum baking dish
clay extruder with attachments
florist's foam brick
toothpicks
polyester fiberfill (medium sheet)
heaping tablespoon of small beads to match clay
2 large pink flat-back rhinestones
4 straight pins with round, colored heads
6 gold filigree METAL bead embellishments
white craft glue, adhesive tape or sheets
aluminum foil
small bowl or paper plate for catching beads
pencil
scissors
small paper punch
craft knife
fine paintbrush
black, red acrylic paint
clay-only pasta machine (optional)

Condition all clay well before beginning.

Steps:

1. To make Annie's head: Roll a 1-inch ball of dusty rose clay. Use a toothpick to gently push holes into the face area for eyes. You may also slice in a smile with the toothpick. Optional: You can paint eyelashes, a full face and/or mouth using acrylic paint after you've have baked the clay.
2. Take seven pieces of thin gold wire cut to approximately 2-1/2" to 3" in length. Gently curve these wire "hairs" up and outward so that when they are placed into the head, they look will like they are moving in the wind towards the back of Annie's head. (After all, she is on a swing!) Place these about half way up the back of her head. They will later be covered with her hat. Cut two pieces of gold wire into 1/2-inch lengths for her bangs. Gently push each strand of hair into Annie's head so that it will be nicely visible once her hat is placed on her head. Place her bangs on her head above her face, keeping in mind that she is swinging--so allow her bangs to appear as though they flow to one side.
3. To make her hat: Roll a small (approximately 1/8 inch) ball of violet clay in your hand, and flatten it with your thumb until it's flat. With your craft knife, cut a small circle about 1-1/2 inch in diameter, for the base of the hat. Place this piece on the top of Annie's head and gently adhere with a gentle touch so as not to make too many divots.
4. Form a snake of violet clay and adjust it to fit around the outer end of the flat piece already on Annie's head. The ends of the snake will meet at the top of her head; just roll each of them back upon themselves to form loops. These loops will touch, and later, you will place her halo onto one of the loops to give her some more 'swinging attitude!'
5. Put a toothpick into the bottom of her head just enough to support it and place it into a plastic foam block for later.
6. To make her body: Roll pink clay into a snake about 1/2-inch thick. Roll and taper at one end to form a cone shape approximately 3 inches long. Cut the ends of the clay with your craft knife for a nice flat cut on both ends. The larger of the ends will sit on the swing, and the smaller end will support her head.
7. Use a toothpick to put a hole into the smaller end of the body for her head. This should match up with the hole that's already in Annie's head. Annie is patient so take your time.
8. Make holes for her legs with a toothpick. These holes will be approximately 1/2 inch up from the bottom of her body and 1/2 inch apart. Do not go in too far, but make the holes deep enough so that you can glue her legs in later. You will be gluing in her "wire" legs once she comes out of the oven and has cooled. TIP: Try to remember when measuring out her legs, the longer they are, the farther they'll have to be inserted into the body. Annie's body is not that wide. If, however, you decide to make her larger, you would be able to extend the length of her legs quite a bit. She will have shoes and socks on, so keep in mind the extra weight she'll carry if you do this and adjust appropriately for baking and balance.
9. Make a hole for Annie's arm just about 3/4 inch down from the top of her neck on the right side of her body. Use the same care that you used for her head and neck. Be sure that you allow enough space to glue, but don't push so much as to meet the hole on the other side. Repeat this on left side of her body.

10. To make her arms: Make a 3-1/2-inch-long snake out of the dusty rose clay. Cut it in half and separate the two pieces. Gently roll the ends of the snake to form a simple round cartoon-hand end.
11. Take a piece of the thin gold wire (or whatever you will be using for your swing cable) and create a hole that will allow you to thread the wire through the hole easily. TIP: Use the actual wire to be sure the holes match.
12. Slightly bend the arms for the appearance of elbow movement. Cut a toothpick in half with your craft knife by scoring around the middle of it until you can break it in half. Insert one of the halves approximately 3/4 inch down from the top of Annie's body (not including head space), pushing the toothpick into her side. Repeat this on her other side.
13. Gently push her arms onto the toothpicks using a little manipulation to achieve the look that you want.
14. To make her wings: Roll out a 5-inch square of luminescent clay, less than 1/8-inch thick. Beginning at the top center of the square, cut out a circle that's just about the size of the square. Cut this circle in half to form a set of wings. Taper off the bottom of each wing, leaving the top of each one a little wider.
15. Run a small amount of violet clay through the clay extruder so that you have created some fine snakes for piping around the edge of the wings. Very carefully attach some piping around the outer edge of each wing, being careful not to smash or squash it flat. This may take some time, but it gets easier and it looks great.
16. Place another bit of piping about 1/4 inch in from the outer edge, laying it on the surface of the wing. This repeats the form of the piping on the outer edge of the wing. Repeat this step one more time. You now have three separate areas that look like stripes on her wings.
17. Place three of the six gold embellishments that you have chosen on the outer stripe, spacing them approximately 1/4 to 1/2 inch from the top and bottom of the body. TIP: Place the middle one first and go from there.
18. Gently bend wings so that they appear to be moving in the wind created by Annie's swinging.
19. To make her shoes: Make a 1-inch ball of violet clay. Cut it in half and shape each half into a slight oval, leaving the cut side down on your work surface. This flat side is the sole of the shoe. Use your pink plastic-coated wire to make holes in her shoes and REMOVE THE WIRE. It cannot be baked. This is the wire you are using for her legs. Be sure to make the hole deep enough so that the wire can be glued in later.
20. To make socks: Roll a small snake of luminescent clay. Cut it in half and measure each sock to fit just outside of the area where you have made a hole for her legs. Put her socks on by attaching the pieces of snake at the back of her shoe. Remember not to push on them too hard, but apply enough pressure so that they will adhere to the shoe when baked. Create a ruffled look by using a toothpick to create small indents along the top of the socks.
21. To make her halo: Make a small snake out of luminescent clay. Making a clean cut at the ends of the snake, attach the ends together so that the halo will fit over Annie's hat at the point where you have rolled back the edge of it. That would be just above the bangs.
22. Give the halo a little bit of 'attitude' by very gently placing it between your thumbs and forefingers on both hands and barely twist it. Do this by twisting in one direction with one hand and at the same time twisting in the other direction with the other hand.

23. To make her necklace: Roll six or seven tiny violet balls for Annie's necklace and place them aside.
24. Bake Annie's head, arms, body, shoes, socks, halo and wings according to the manufacturer's instructions on the clay that you use. TIP: Use polyester filling or balled-up aluminum foil under her wings to keep their shape. Note: Unless you have a dedicated oven for clay baking, please make an aluminum foil tent to cover your project. WARNING: Do not bake any plastic-coated wire in the oven.
25. Remove all of Annie's parts from the oven after you've allowed them to cool. The thinner of her parts may still be a little pliable when they come out of the oven, so be careful not to reform any part unless that is your intention. Once everything is cooled sufficiently, you can move on to assembling her.
26. To assemble Annie: Glue her head to one end of a toothpick and place the other end into her body. Create a space between the two so that her beaded necklace may be glued into place without lying on her chest. You will do this later.
27. Annie's arms baked with her body, so they should be sturdy. However, this part of her arm will be covered with beads, so you should add glue around the joint where the arm and body meet to make it stronger.
28. Carefully glue one of her wings to her back (with the piping and embellishments facing you) along the lines where you will be adding her beaded dress. This means that you don't want the wings to be attached in the back. If, for some reason you do attach them, that's just fine. You will then skip the beading instructions for the back of Annie's dress.
29. Glue Annie's legs and shoes into their respective holes made earlier. You may bend her legs however you like. I have chosen to cross them lightly at the ankles while she swings. Now let's dress her up!
30. To create her beaded dress: Place a strip of your choice of adhesive down Annie's back, making it a little smaller at the top than the bottom so that it is consistent with her body's cone shape. If you have placed her wings in a position where they touch each other, then, as mentioned above, you may skip this because you won't be beading her dress in the back. TIP: If you think you will have trouble using your glue to maintain straight lines, I suggest using adhesive tape and/or sheets that can be cut to shape.
31. Place Annie over a small bowl or paper plate to catch any falling beads, and pour beads onto the back of her "dress." Allow to cure/dry. Please allow enough time as per the instructions on the package of the adhesive you are using.
32. When preparing the front and sleeves of her dress, repeat the previous steps, applying the adhesive of your choice and sprinkling with beads. Keep about 1/2 inch bare to show Annie's neck.
33. Repeat the same steps to apply her sleeves.
34. Add gold cording around the bottom of her dress to add extra daytime shine. Make a small loop using that same cording and glue it to the side of her dress, placing it approximately 1 inch from where she is going to sit. Use the same cording and form a small loop on her right side and glue it into place.
35. Once the glue is dry, glue the flat side of one of the rhinestones over the loop, making sure that the rhinestone is glued flat to her body. Repeat this on her other side.
36. To make the swing: Cover your piece of cardboard with paper or paint to match Annie's ensemble. If you have rubber stamps or embossing powders that you'd like to use on her seat, go for it!

37. Measure in from the outer edges on both sides of the swing seat and, using a pencil, mark four holes where the cable will be strung. When you do this, keep in mind that you want to stay clear of Annie's wingspan. Then use a paper punch or any other hole-punching object to make the holes. Please be sure that the holes are properly placed, because you are piercing the finished seat.
38. Take your cable of choice and cut it in half. Fold one of the halves in half. Place the half point under the short end of the swing seat and string one end of the cable up through one opening and the other end of the cable through the other opening. Be sure you are threading on the same side of the swing. You are doing this on the narrow end of the swing seat so that Annie will have room to sit. Repeat this step on the other narrow side of the swing seat.
39. Twist off the heads of four round-head pins. Set them aside.
40. To attach Annie to her swing: Carefully place Annie in position on the seat of the swing and glue in place when she is as you want her. This step is very easy but Annie would like you to be a little extra careful. Her arms and wings, though durable, are still more fragile than the rest of her. Place some polyester fiberfill on your working area to create a cushion or safety net, if you will.
41. Thread the front cable of the right side of the swing through her right hand by threading through the holes you put in her hands previously. Repeat this step for the left side of the swing. TIP: If for any reason you have forgotten to pierce holes in her hands, you may use your clear-drying craft glue and generously glue the cable to her hand. If you need to do this, you might like to try wrapping the cable around her wrist first and then glue. You could glue on a rose or anything else to cover this up, or add a few small beads like you made her necklace to add a bracelet.
42. Gently take hold of the four cables and bring them together approximately 2 to 3 inches above Annie's head. Just be sure to leave enough cable for a loop at the top for hanging. Twist all four cables a few times, leaving the loose ends at the top. Tie a small bow with gold cording at the point of the twist.
43. Form a loop with the remaining cable and close it off by wrapping it around itself. Try not to leave any pieces sticking out to scratch your hands.
44. Take a look at Annie and see if you want to bend or shape any of the wires. If you have any sharp points that are still sticking out, file them, bend them or add a dollop of glue over them (just enough to hide them) so that no one will be scratched.