How to make a modeling clay ladybug

Materials: Ordinary red and black non-drying modeling clay, a board and a blunt plastic tool.



1. Roll a red ball

Soften the red clay and roll a ball between your palms. Set the black clay aside for now.

Check: The surface has no large cracks and yields to gentle pressure.

Fix: Warm a stiff piece in your palms and knead it before rolling.



2. Make the rounded back

Set the ball on the board and press gently from above once. Flatten the underside while keeping the top rounded.

Check: The base does not roll and looks like a low dome rather than a thin pancake.

Fix: Gather an over-flattened base into a ball and press more gently.



3. Prepare a small head

Roll a little black clay into a ball about one-third the width of the red body. Set it separately on the right. Keep the remaining black clay for spots.

Check: The red body and much smaller black head are still separate.

Fix: Split an oversized ball and roll the head from a smaller portion.

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4. Press the head onto the body

Flatten a small contact patch on the black ball. Steady the red base on the left and press the whole patch against its right side.

Check: The head touches the board and stays joined after a gentle touch.

Fix: Remove a loose head, soften its contact patch and press it on again a little more firmly.



5. Mark the center of the back

Use a blunt plastic tool to press a shallow line along the center of the red back, from the rear edge toward the head. Keep the base whole.

Check: There is room for spots on both sides; red clay still joins the base underneath.

Fix: Smooth a deep cut closed with a finger and press a new line more lightly.



6. Attach six spots

Roll six small black balls. Place three on each side of the line and press each straight down into a flat round spot. Lift the model from underneath and set it down.

Check: All six spots stay on, the line is clear and the rounded back is not crushed.

Fix: Remove a smeared spot, roll a smaller ball and attach it with one short press.

Try independently: Without the pictures, make a smaller ladybug with four spots, two on each side. Decide how to attach the head without squashing the back. Lift the model from underneath and set it down: do the head and all the spots stay on?