How to make a modeling clay hedgehog

Materials: Ordinary brown and black non-drying modeling clay, a board and a cloth.



1. Soften and roll a ball

Knead the brown clay and roll one ball. Set the black piece aside for facial details.

Check: The brown ball is smooth and yields to gentle pressure.

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



2. Make a low oval

Roll the ball gently back and forth under your palm. Set the short oval down and press lightly from above to flatten its underside.

Check: The low body does not roll after a gentle touch.

Fix: If it rolls, widen the underside with a little more downward pressure; keep it thick.



3. Pull a short snout

Steady the body on the left. Gradually draw out the right end between two fingers. Taper only the tip and support it from underneath.

Check: The short tip has a thick base and does not droop toward the board.

Fix: Gather an overlong snout back into the body and pull it out again shorter.

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4. Try the first pinches

Steady the lower body. Make a few short pinches on the back farthest from the snout using thumb and forefinger. Release without pulling upward.

Check: The bumps are short and thick, with bases still joined to the back.

Fix: Press torn clay back into place and smooth it. Use less pressure for the next pinch.



5. Texture the back

Continue short pinches across the back, leaving some space between them. Keep the snout smooth. You do not need to copy the exact number of quills in the picture.

Check: The face is smooth, the back textured and the body rests on a flat base.

Fix: Re-form a squashed bump gently; support the body underneath if it starts to stretch.



6. Add the nose and eyes

Roll a small black nose and press it onto the snout tip. Add two tiny eyes at the sides if wanted. Lift the hedgehog from underneath and set it down.

Check: The nose stays on, the snout is intact and the body stays still. The far eye may be hidden in side view.

Fix: Reduce an oversized detail, soften it and press it on again while supporting the snout underneath.

Try independently: Without the pictures, make a smaller hedgehog with a rounder back. Decide where to leave a smooth face and how to support the body while pinching. Set it down: does it stay still, and are the quills intact? Explain why a short snout holds its shape.