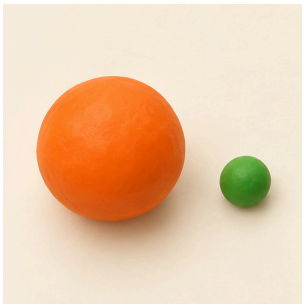
How to make a modeling clay carrot

Materials: Ordinary non-drying modeling clay: orange, green; a board; a blunt plastic tool.



1. Prepare two colors

Knead the colors separately. Roll a large orange ball and a small green ball. Set the green clay aside for the leaves.

Check: Two separate soft balls; orange is much larger.

Fix: Warm firm clay in your palms and knead it before rolling.



2. Roll a short cylinder

Place the orange ball on the board. Roll it back and forth under your palm with light even pressure to make a short thick cylinder.

Check: Both ends are about equally thick; the middle is not pinched.

Fix: Gather a thin middle back into a ball and roll again more gently.



3. Taper one end

Turn the cylinder with its broad end toward the upper right. Roll only the lower-left end under your fingers, pressing it a little harder. Keep the other end thick.

Check: One end is narrow and rounded, the other broad, with a smooth transition.

Fix: Press a broken tip back onto the body and roll a smaller area more gently.

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4. Make three leaves

Divide the green ball into three pieces. Roll each into a thick teardrop and flatten it lightly on the board. Set all three beside the carrot.

Check: Three separate leaves with whole edges and bases thicker than threads.

Fix: Gather a thin leaf into a ball and flatten the next teardrop less.



5. Attach the leafy top

Arrange the leaves in a fan at the broad end. Overlap their bases onto the orange shoulder, press with a fingertip and smooth each join.

Check: All three leaves hold, with no gaps at their joins to the carrot.

Fix: Remove a loose leaf, knead its base and press the whole joining patch down again.



6. Add marks and check

Use the blunt edge of a plastic tool to press three short shallow crosswise marks. Lift the carrot from underneath and set it back on the board.

Check: Marks are shallow, the tip is whole and the leaves stay attached.

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

Try independently: Without the pictures, make a shorter carrot with two leaves. Decide where to press harder and how to secure the leaf bases. Lift it from underneath: does the shape stay whole and do both leaves hold?