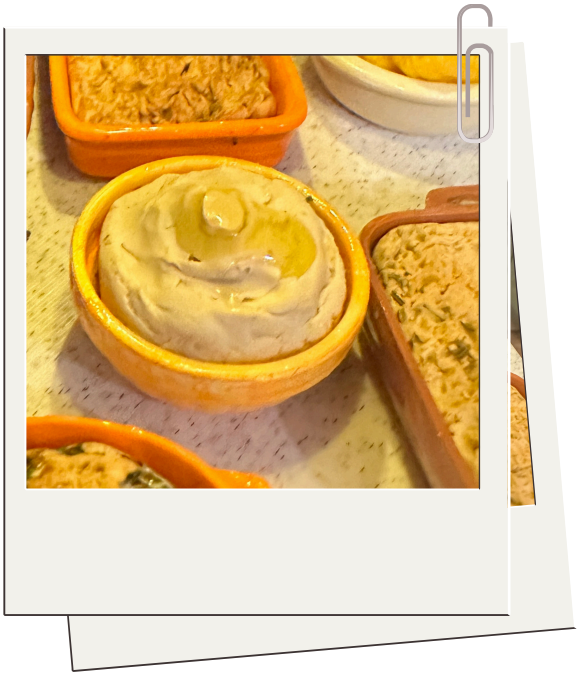
Making Miniature Mashed Potatoes with Melting Butter



What's Thanksgiving dinner without a big bowl of mashed potatoes?

For this project, I used polymer clay to create the potatoes, added tiny pats of butter, and finished everything with a little transparent yellow UV resin to give the butter that freshly melted appearance.

Supplies

- White or creamy off-white polymer clay
- Pale yellow polymer clay for the butter
- Small miniature serving bowl
- Miniature plates for individual portions
- Clay sculpting tools or toothpicks
- Craft blade
- Transparent yellow UV resin
- UV curing lamp
- Basic polymer clay baking supplies

Step 1: Making the Mashed Potatoes

I started with creamy-colored polymer clay to represent the mashed potatoes. The goal was to create the appearance of soft, fluffy potatoes piled into a serving bowl, with smaller portions for individual dinner plates.

I shaped the clay into mounds that would fit my miniature dishes, building up the potatoes to look like generous servings rather than smooth, flat surfaces.

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Step 2: Adding Texture

Real mashed potatoes aren't perfectly smooth. They have little peaks, swirls, and uneven areas where they've been scooped or stirred. Adding surface texture helps give the miniature potatoes a more realistic appearance.

Step 3: Making Tiny Pats of Butter

Of course, no bowl of Thanksgiving mashed potatoes is complete without butter!

For the butter pats, I used polymer clay in an appropriate pale yellow color. I cut tiny slices to represent individual pieces of butter resting on top of the potatoes. These little pieces add color and help the potatoes look more like a finished dish.

Step 4: Creating the Melted Butter Effect

To give the appearance of butter melting into the warm potatoes, I used transparent yellow UV resin. A small amount of resin around the butter pats creates a glossy, golden effect that resembles melted butter collecting in the little valleys of the potatoes. The contrast between the matte clay and the shiny resin makes the butter stand out. Be careful not to add too much. A little goes a long way at miniature scale!

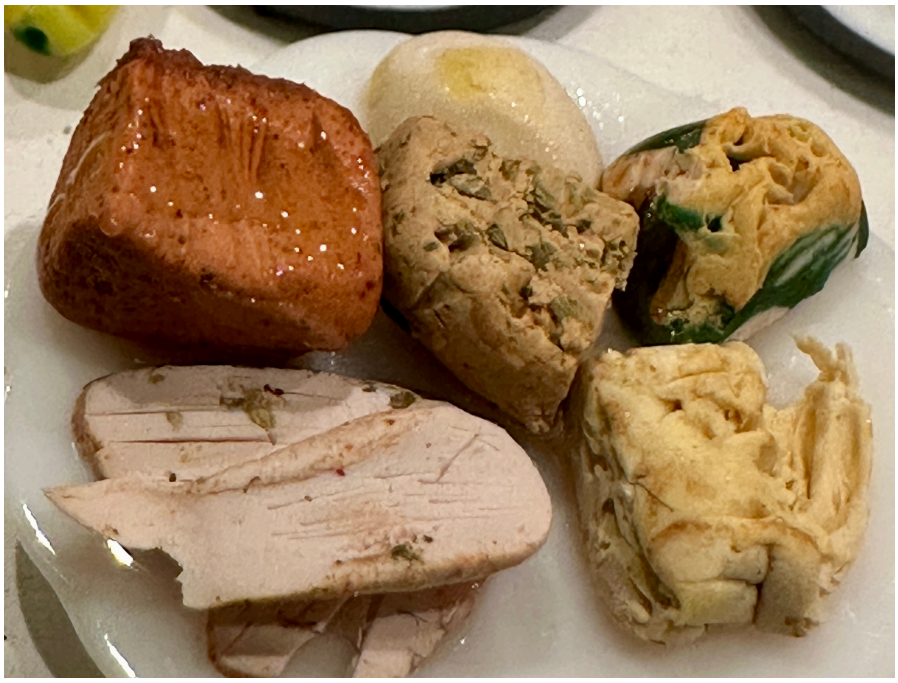
💡 GoAlongs Tip – Making your resin transparent yellow

You can make your own yellow resin by using a tiny (and I mean tiny!) bit of yellow resin pigment dye. I dipped a toothpick point into the dye and mixed that into a small bit a clear resin. A little goes a long way! You want a very transparent golden yellow. If needed, look at reference photos to help mix the correct color.

Important: Bake the polymer clay according to the manufacturer's instructions and allow it to cool completely before adding UV resin. Follow the resin manufacturer's safety and curing instructions, use appropriate ventilation and skin protection, and fully cure the resin before handling the finished pieces.

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Step 5: Setting the Miniature Thanksgiving Table

With the potatoes finished, I had both a serving bowl and individual portions ready for my Thanksgiving dinner display.

The bowl makes a nice centerpiece for the food arrangement, while the smaller servings help make the individual place settings feel more complete.

What I'd Do Differently Next Time

One of the things I enjoy about making miniatures is that there's always something new to learn. Although I'm pleased with how the butter turned out, I think the potatoes themselves could be improved. The polymer clay held its shape nicely, but the finished potatoes look a little too firm. Real mashed potatoes should look soft, light, and fluffy.

Next time, I'd experiment with air-dry clay instead of polymer clay. I'd like to try creating more uneven peaks, soft folds, and a slightly rougher surface that better captures the texture of freshly mashed potatoes. I'd still use the little polymer clay butter pats and transparent yellow UV resin, though. That combination worked well!

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