Which Hobby

Clay starter checklist

Everything to start clay on one page. Tick it off as you go.

Shopping list

☐ Polymer clay, four 2 oz blocks	**$12 to $16**
☐ Air-dry clay instead, about 2 lb	**$5 to $14**
☐ Acrylic roller, 8 in	**$10 to $13**
☐ Small cutter set	**$5 to $9**
☐ Oven thermometer (polymer)	**$10 to $14**
☐ Water-based sealer (air-dry)	**$4 to $12**
☐ Ceramic tile or parchment paper to work and bake on, a craft knife, fine sandpaper	**from home**
Starter total	**about $25 to $55**

First project: a trinket dish

1. Condition the clay until soft, working on a tile or parchment paper.
2. Roll a slab about 5 mm (1/4 inch) thick.
3. Cut a circle and lift the edges.
4. Bake it (polymer) or let it dry slowly (air-dry), then seal air-dry pieces.

Done in about 1-2 days.

Skip for now

- A kiln or a pottery wheel.
- A pasta machine, until you make lots of thin sheets.
- Liquid clay, mica powders and resin.

Your first week

☐ **Session 1, 30 minutes:** Condition the clay until soft, roll an even slab and cut a few shapes to see how the clay behaves.

☐ **Session 2, about 1 hour:** Make the trinket dish. Bake polymer clay as the packet says, checking with an oven thermometer, or leave air-dry clay to dry slowly.

☐ **Session 3, about 1 hour:** Make a small hanging ornament (poke the hole before baking or drying), then smooth the edges with fine sandpaper and seal air-dry pieces.