

How to Mix a Basic Natural Flesh Tone. An introduction to mixing colors with hearty Clay by Dianna Effner

Hey Hearties! - I have devised a system for mixing colors with Hearty Clay. The manufacturer is no longer offering Flesh color so we will have to be more creative and make our own so I will introduce my new system and show you how to mix my new basic flesh tone. From there we can make many variations and lots of different flesh tones.

It's a good idea to keep a sample of your test colors and make notes on how you arrived at each color. I keep mine in a special folder.

First let me explain my system for dividing the clay into units. A unit is a round piece of Hearty Clay slightly larger than a pea, about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter.

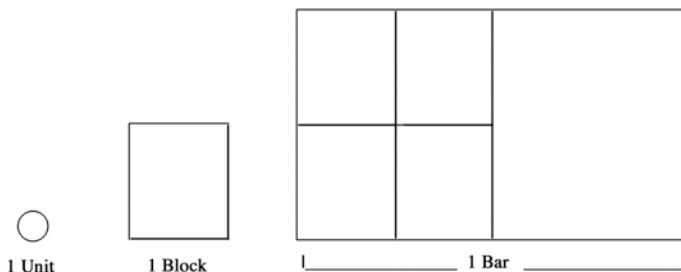
A bar is a whole package (1.75oz.) of Hearty Clay

A block is $\frac{1}{8}$ th of a bar

16 units = 1 block

8 blocks = 1 bar

1 large package of white = 3 small packages (bars)



Enough math facts. Here's what to do.

You need white, yellow, red and blue to make any flesh tone. You will need way more white than the other colors and a very little blue but you do need blue or the color will be too orange.

Step 1: Prepare the Clay. If the Clay is very fresh and opens nicely you can use the rectangle as your bar. Usually the clay requires a bit of kneading to even and smooth it out. Open the package and work the clay with your hands until it is smooth and velvety and the moisture is evenly distributed. Then roll it, flatten and shape it into a rectangular shape or bar.

Step 2: Divide the Clay. Place it on a cutting surface and cut it into 2 equal halves.

Now cut the halves in half. Now there are quarters. Next cut the quarters in half. These are the blocks that equal 16 units.

Keep the clay under wraps while you open the other colors and divide them into units.

The white clay block is 3 times larger than the colors. Divide the white clay into thirds before forming a bar and dividing into blocks.

To form the units you can cut a block as you did the bar, or you can pinch off a piece and just eyeball it.

This is not an exact science. Remember a unit is about $\frac{3}{8}$ th inch in diameter or like a large pea.

To make Flesh Tone here is what I did (after hours of testing) First I made a color that I named Sienna Brown

I mixed together 32 units (2 blocks) of Yellow 12 units ($\frac{3}{4}$ block) of Red 1 unit of Blue

Then I mixed 64 (4 blocks) units of White with 1 unit of Sienna Brown

Or mix 1 bar of White with 2 units of Sienna Brown

This color can be varied by adding small bits of other colors but be sure to start with very tiny bits.

The pigments in this clay is very strong and it is easy to add too much.