



Various Methods for Making Miniature Plates:

1. The first optimum step to creating beautiful plates is to use a paper punch. Paper Minis plates come in either 1" or 3/4" size. Notice how the punch catcher is removed in the photo and the puncher is actually upside down. This let's the crafter see the exact position for the punch. For many Paper Minis plates--not all--an extra rim of color has been added just in case your punch is not perfect.



2. The easiest--but more costly--way to emboss miniature plates is to use a commercial plate embosser. This tool is also known as a mini shaper.

These plates have been embossed using a commercial shaper shown in the previous photo.



3. A less costly way to shape a mini plate is to find a round object with nice-fitted cap. In the case here a glue stick is used. In order to protect the plate, plastic cling wrap is used to cover both pieces. Of course the glue stick has been retracted.



4. Place the plate face down on the object. Center it. Use some blanks first to acquire the skill needed. I press down the edges first with my finger.



5. Place the lid over the plate and press down with even force.



6. Here is a sample of a home-made pressed/embossed plate.



Découpage Plates:

1. Cut out paper plates. A 1" circle punch works very well for this project using 1" plate slugs. Pick a paper plate to begin with and paint plenty of quick-dry glue to back. Hold a few seconds to allow the wet glue to soften the paper so that it is pliable.



2. Position paper plate over wood slug. By the way, if you were planning on painting the slugs, it would be wiser to paint them before glueing on the paper plates.

3. Use a smooth surface, such as the flat backside of your finger nail, to lightly burnish the paper plate. Allow to dry.



4. Make painting the gloss varnish a much easier task by creating a handle. Take a ball of poster clay and place on the flat end of a pen. Press the plate into the poster clay.



5. Paint plate with varnish. Paint a couple of coats, but wait between coats to allow the varnish to completely dry. I placed the pen in a spool of ribbon to hold it upright. When you are finished with one plate, remove it from the poster clay and embed another in the poster clay.



Here's another tip if you want to paint more than one plate at a time. I used a piece of insulation styrofoam and impaled it with large nails on which a ball of poster clay was adhered to each nail head. This gives you many platforms.



6. Here is how the finished plates display.



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