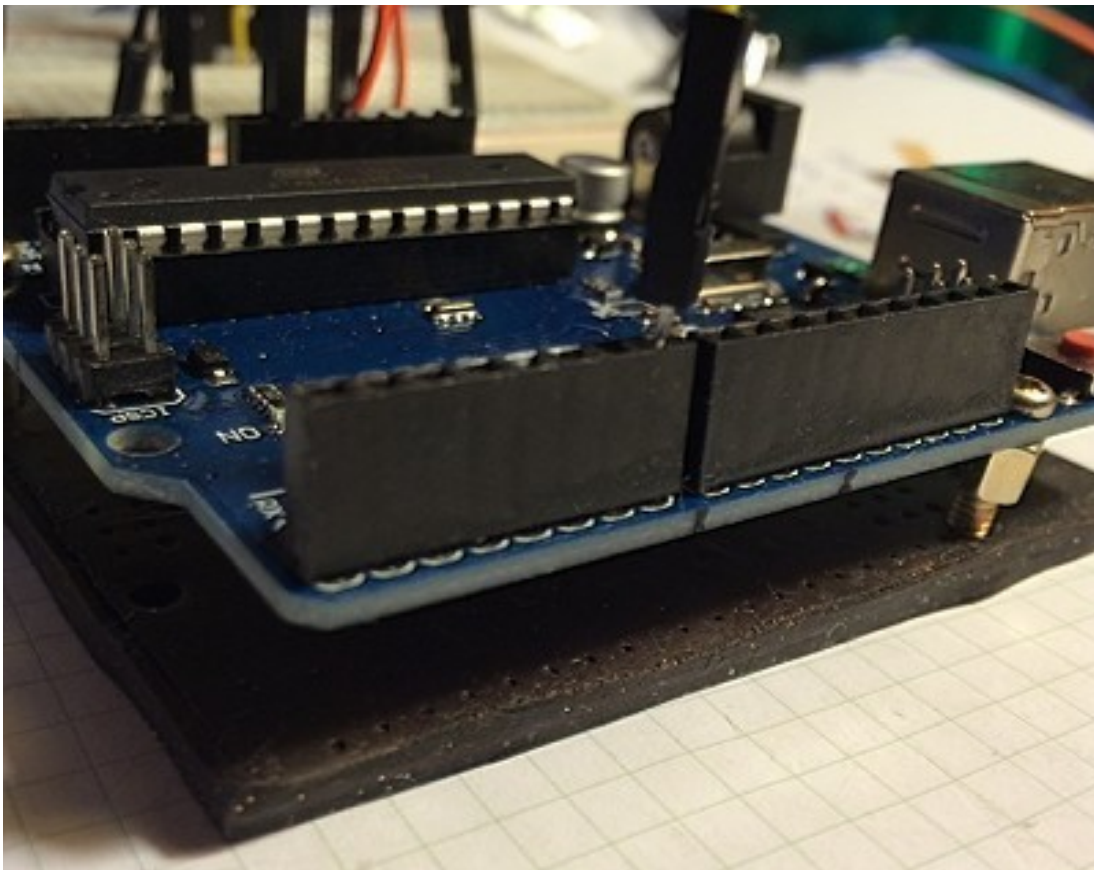


Make your own Arduino Holder from Polymer Clay



What you need

- One little block of Fimo polymer clay (costs about \$2.79 at Joanne's, Michaels, or A.C. Moore; and you have a wild choice of colors!).
- 4 stand-off screw sets (like you save from motherboards when you tear them apart).
- A drill and a bit (smaller than the end diameter of the stand off screw).

And then, unless you know a polymer clay person, here's what you do.

Before you start, turn on your oven or toaster oven to 230°F.

9 Steps and You Have It

ONE

Unwrap the block of clay and break off the sections one at a time and roll them around between your palms until each piece is soft. Knead the piece with your fingers and roll it again. Then take a couple of the worked balls and roll them together, keep doing this until you have one large ball from all the pieces.

TWO

Roughly flatten that ball with your fingers and thumbs until it's maybe a quarter inch thick. Ball it up again and repeat. Several times. It will of course be an irregular pancake. Do this about 5 or 6 times.

THREE

Lay the final pancake on a piece of wax paper on a hard, flat surface. Get a small piece of pipe, a dowel, or a straight candle (at least 1" in diameter) and roll the clay gently and as evenly as possible until it is about 1/8" or 3/16" thick.

FOUR

Carefully lay the Arduino on the flattened without pressing down. (You should have clay extending beyond the board on all sides.) Take one of the stand off screws and *carefully and lightly* press it through the holes on the Arduino board. You don't want to make a hole, you just want to *mark* the clay.

FIVE

When that's done, using a jackknife or razor blade, trim the clay, following the edges of the board and set the Arduino aside. If the board has an irregular side, like the Uno, I prefer to make the cut straight across without following the indentations.

SIX

Put the wax paper with the clay rectangle on a cookie sheet and put it in the oven. Set a timer for 35 minutes.

SEVEN

As soon as the timer goes off, pull out the cookie sheet, add another piece of wax paper on top of the clay and put a book on it. Leave it alone until it cools. Probably a half hour.

EIGHT

When it's nice and cool, and flat, set up a drill with a bit somewhat smaller than the end diameter of your stand off screw and drill the holes at the exact locations of the imprints on the clay.

NINE

And, you know what to do next! Gently screw in the stand off screws, put the board on top of them and screw it down. A turn and a half for all the top screws at first; and when they are all in, gently tighten them down.

You are done!