



Sculpey Switch plates

Design by syndee holt

The smallest item in a room can have a big design effect! These switch plates are super easy and fun to create in your own colors!

SUPPLIES FOR ONE PLATE:

- Premo Sculpey or Souffle Black clay – 2 packages
 - Clay Conditioning Machine (pasta machine)
 - Sculpey Etch n Pearl or bamboo skewer
 - Exacto blade
 - Sculpey Super Slicer blade
 - Texture sheet (mine are Shade Tex rubbing plates from Amazon) OR use a large stamp
 - Pearl Ex powders in several colors
 - Acrylic paint in a contrasting color to your Pearl Ex (optional)
 - Small brush for paint
 - Sculpey Gloss or Satin Glaze
 - Small spray bottle of water
 - Metal switch plate in configuration you wish (NOTE: Nylon plates can be used but generally only once!)
 - Sheets of paper for your work surface
1. Cut the block of clay into thirds and pass each piece through the clay conditioning machine open to the second widest setting. Repeat this folding and rolling to “condition” the clay until it feels flexible. Roll all the pieces together to create one large sheet of clay.
 2. IF YOU ARE USING A RUBBING SHEET – trim the sheet to the width of the clay conditioning machine. Select which side of the rubbing sheet you wish to use for your pattern. Lightly spray this side with water and place the sheet of clay against it. Set the clay conditioning machine on the widest setting and roll the rubbing sheet and clay through it. Remove the clay from the sheet and admire your perfect texture pattern!
 3. IF YOU ARE USING A LARGE STAMP – lightly spray the stamp with water. Place the clay sheet on the stamp. Add a piece of paper on top of the stamp. Place the whole assembly on a hard floor surface, paper side down and step on the stamp from all 4 sides. Remove the stamp, peel the paper from the clay and admire your texture!

4. Place the metal switchplate face down on the clay sheet, textured side down. Roll the plate up on one long side (facing you) and slice the excess clay off, using the edge of the plate as a guide.
5. Repeat Step 2 on the other long side.
6. Roll the metal plate up on a short side and trim as in step 2. Use your fingers to fold around the corner and retrim.
7. Repeat Step 4 on the final side
8. Place the covered switch plate face down on the sheet of clean paper and use the Exacto blade to trim out the switch area. Use the Etch n' Pearl or skewer to pierce a small hole in the center of the two screw holes.
9. Carefully flip the plate over and locate the small hole you made from the back in the screw hole. Push the Etch n' Pearl or skewer through the hole and roll the skewer slightly to make the hole bigger on the top of the clay (this allows for the screw head).
10. Invert the bottle of Pearl Ex powder. Remove the lid and place the container to the side. Poke your finger into the Pearl Ex in the lid and lightly rub across the top of the textured plate. Repeat this process until you are satisfied with the effect. Try NOT to put your finger into the bottle because Pearl Ex can get under your nail and drop onto the texture in a clump!
11. Bake the clay and the metal plate as directed on your clay package in a preheated 275 degree oven for 30 minutes. Carefully remove the plate after baking and just pop the clay off of the metal plate!
12. If you are planning on adding a contrasting color to your plate with acrylic paints, just paint the entire surface and use a wet paper towel or baby wipe to remove the paint from the upper surfaces where the Pearl Ex is. Allow to dry.
13. You can seal the finished plate with the Sculpey glaze. Dip the brush into a cup of water, then the tip of the brush into the glaze. Lightly brush across the surface. Use the brush to remove any "milky" excess glaze. Allow to dry and install your new switch plate!