

How to make a cable management frame out of clay



Overview

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Key Takeaways

You can create a functional and decorative cable management frame by hand-building clay into a trough or frame, letting it dry to leather-hard, and finishing it for durability.

- Materials Needed**
- Clay: Use plastic or earthenware clay for easy shaping and firing, or air-dry clay for a no-kiln option .
 - Tools: Needle tool, wire cutter, wooden modeling tools, sponge, and a metal rib for smoothing .
 - Work Surface: Smooth, non-porous surface like a vinyl mat or canvas over a board .
 - Optional: Acrylic paint or glaze for finishing.

Step-by-Step Instructions

- Plan Your Frame Decide the size and shape of your cable frame. A simple rectangular trough works well, with enough width to hold multiple cables and power adapters . Sketch the design to guide your clay shaping.
- Shape the Clay
- Roll out clay slabs to the desired thickness (about 0.5-1 cm).

- Cut and join pieces to form the base and sides of the trough. Score and slip the edges to ensure strong joins .
- Smooth the surfaces with a sponge or metal rib to remove cracks and uneven areas.
- Add Cable Openings
- Use a needle tool or small cutter to create holes or slits where cables will pass through.
- Ensure openings are large enough for your cables but not so large that the frame loses stability .
- Drying and Hardening
- Let the clay reach leather-hard stage before refining edges or adding details .
- Fully dry to bone-dry before firing (if using kiln clay) or leaving to air-dry (if using air-dry clay). Be aware that clay shrinks slightly as it dries .
- Finishing
- For kiln-fired clay, bisque fire, then glaze and fire again for a durable finish .
- For air-dry clay, sand lightly and paint with acrylics for a protective and aesthetic finish .
- Optionally, attach felt pads or silicone strips to the bottom to prevent slipping on your desk.
- Installation
- Place the clay frame under your desk or along a wall.
- Thread cables through the openings, keeping them organized and off the floor .

Tips for Durability

- Keep walls of the trough thick enough to prevent cracking.
- Avoid attaching wet clay to fully dry clay to prevent breakage .
- Consider reinforcing with small wooden or metal supports if the frame will hold heavy adapters. By following these steps, you can create a custom, functional, and decorative clay cable management frame that organizes your workspace while showcasing your crafting skills.

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To make a basic cable management box, you'll need a few simple materials, including a wooden or plastic box, cable

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