

Enjoy the Holidays

Make Your Own Clay Dreidel

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Cooking time: 30 minutes

Ready in: 2 hours or less

MATERIALS:

2 cups flour

1 cup salt

1 cup water

Note: You will also need blue acrylic paint, a paintbrush, a black fine-line felt-tipped marker, shellac and a paint brush.



DIRECTIONS:

1. Mix the dry ingredients together in a large bowl. Gradually add the water, mixing with your hands. When all the water is used up, mix the dough well with your hands and knead. Put some flour on a clean working surface.
2. Preheat oven to 300 degrees.
3. To craft the three-dimensional dreidel, begin by making a 4" ball from the dough. The bottom of the dreidel must come to a point and the top should be narrow enough to be held easily. Refine the shape by checking the illustration below.
4. Place on a cookie sheet and bake until lightly browned. It takes about 30 minutes, but check the oven often to make sure the pieces are not burning along the edges.
5. Using a potholder, remove the cookie sheet from the oven and allow clay to cool.
6. After cooling, paint with blue acrylic paint and allow to dry. Decorate with one of the Hebrew letters on each side using the black fine-line felt-tipped marker (see letters below). When dry, coat it completely with shellac to keep out any moisture and to preserve the dreidel.



Shin:
Put one in



Hey:
Take half



Gimmel:
Take everything



Nun:
Take nothing

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Playing Dreidel

Traditionally, no work is to be done while the Chanukah candles are lit so playing dreidel is a nice way to spend time with friends and family. Just decide on the number of rounds you will play before you begin or you will be playing long into the night because it's just that much fun!

Players take turns spinning the dreidel and collecting or giving gelt. If a player spins Shin they add one to the pot, Hey they take half the pot, Gimmel they take the pot and Nun they take nothing.

The player with the most gelt at the end of the number of rounds agreed upon is the winner. And would it kill you to be a mensch and share a little with your little sister?

The Dreidel Song

Of course Chanukah is not complete without endlessly singing the dreidel song. The louder and more out of tune the better.

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Then dreidel I shall play

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when it gets all tired
It drops and then I win

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Then dreidel I shall play.

My dreidel's always playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of dreidel
Come play, now let's begin!

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Then dreidel I shall play.

Repeat from the beginning.