



Bubble Tea Charm

Celebrate National Bubble Tea Day (April 30) by making this cute bubble tea charm that can go on a keychain or backpack.



Ingredients (Included):

- 1 charm with lid and straw
- 1 key chain with extra jump ring
- 1 container puffy fabric paint
- black clay

You Supply:

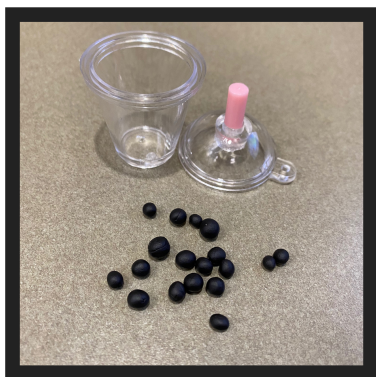
- Hot glue gun or superglue or another strong adhesive
- Jewelry pliers or small pliers for closing jump rings (optional but helpful)

Two things to note:

There is a little hole on the bottom of the cup, but since we're not using resin, I've sealed it with hot glue so nothing leaks.

You may have a flat lid or a domed lid in your kit. The lid to the cup looks like it screws on, but it doesn't. You will have to glue it on. Hot glue works best but superglue or another strong glue will work. Let it set for 24 hours before using as a keychain.

Step One: Using the black clay, piece out and roll several little balls to act as the boba in your bubble tea charm.

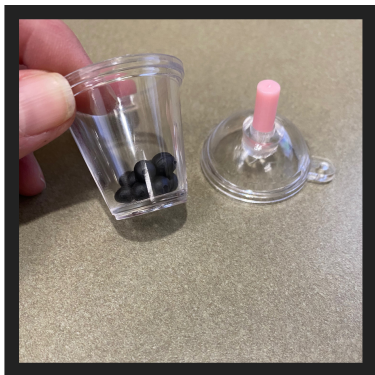


Step Two: Put the boba in the cup. It works best when the boba is against the sides of the cup, because they are more visible once you fill the cup with the paint. You can use a toothpick to move the boba around.

Step Three: Fill the cup with the dimensional fabric paint, almost to the top. You can stop at various points and use the toothpick to move the boba against the walls of the cup if the paint is displacing them too much.

Step Four: If you want the lid of the cup to remain paint-free (unlike my sample), you need to wait for the fabric paint to harden and dry. This could take 24 hours or more with the lid off.

In my sample, I didn't wait for the paint to dry, so it slid down into the lid when I turned it upside down.

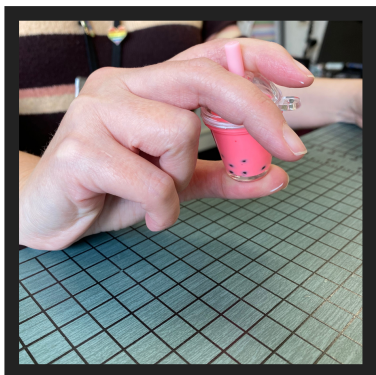


If you want the lid to be colored the same as the body, you can squeeze some paint into the lid as well and spread it around. Make sure to let it dry before continuing if you do that.

Step Five: Once the paint is dry enough, you can glue on the lid. I used Aleene's Tacky Glue in my first sample, and it worked okay, but took more than a day to dry well.

Whatever glue you use, hold the top on to make sure it sets. With Aleene's Tacky Glue, I had to hold the lid on for 15 minutes so it wouldn't pop off on its own. For hot glue, it will be much shorter. Check after 5 minutes. Then wait several hours to 24 hours to make sure the glue holding the lid on is dry.

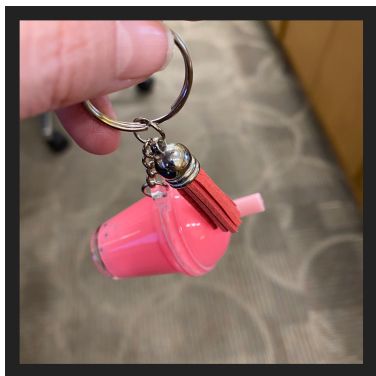
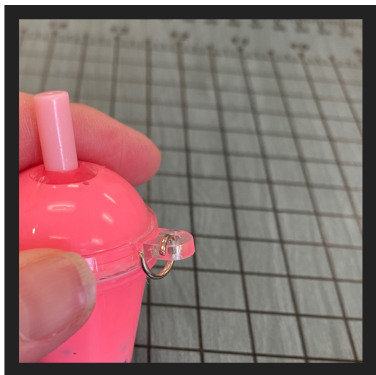
You don't want the charm to come apart once it's on your backpack!



Step Six: Once everything is dry, you can attach the tassel and key chain using the jump rings.

Closing jump rings by hand can be tricky. If you're having trouble, ask for help, or use a small set of jewelry pliers or needle nose pliers if you have them available.

We have them available at our Maker appointments if you're in a pinch!



Have questions or comments about our Teen Take & Makes? Email me at khutley@wilmettelibrary.info. Proud of your final product? Post a picture and tag @wilmettelibraryteens on Instagram!