

Tips for Customizing Munny

by Sara Antoinette Martin



Customizing MUNNY

The following are the methods and recommendations of our friend, Sara Antoinette Martin. There are many ways to customize MUNNY and other vinyl figures and we encourage you to experiment with your favorite artistic disciplines and techniques.

Get Ready: Pep Talk

First things first, wash MUNNY with bubbly soap to remove any solvents and grease from the factory. Keep in mind that your hands are oily too, so wash them often or wear latex gloves.

You may also want to test a technique before you apply it to MUNNY. A good place to do this is on the bottom of your figure's foot or an un-used accessory. Some accessories are not made of vinyl, and you can usually feel the difference. If this is the case, the technique you are testing may not work the same when applied to MUNNY.

Markers: Make Your Mark

- Regular Sharpies work best on vinyl, especially if you don't want to prime your figure.
- Water-based markers and paint pens are another option if you want to avoid priming.
- Oil-based paint pens are great too, but you need to prime MUNNY or else your masterpiece will rub off.

Warning: MUNNY is for people of all ages but some techniques like the ones below may involve dangerous tools or chemicals. If you are 15 and under, stick to markers and crayons, or team up with a grown up to create the MUNNY of your dreams.

Priming: A Good Foundation is Everything

- Priming allows you to do even more with MUNNY!
- Krylon Sandable primer is one of our favorites, but you can use any spray primer from a hardware or art supply store.
- Take the head and arms off and stick a pen or kebab skewer in the holes to get full coverage in one shot.
- Tape off the joints with artist tape so the parts will easily fit back together.
- Wear a mask or respirator to protect your lungs.

Paint: Your Perfect Picture

- Acrylic paints go on smooth, give full coverage and do not require a primer. Our favorite of the lot is Golden Liquid Acrylics.
- Oil-based enamel paints give a glossy finish, but you must prime your figure first.
- Spray paint also calls for primer. If you skip this step, MUNNY will be sticky forever.
- When selecting a brush, opt for a synthetic sable one, it gives the smoothest application.
- Before you start your paint job, remove and tape up the joints so your figure will easily fit back together when you are done.



Gluing: Stick To It

- If you don't have a glue gun, try plastic glue, available at model-making, hobby, or art supply stores.
- 2-part epoxy glue is best for heavy add-ons such as sculpt parts and metal.
- Avoid regular white craft glue, as it does not adhere to vinyl.

Sculpting: Mold Your Reality

- Magic Sculpt is a 2-part epoxy clay that adheres to anything and dries overnight so you can sand and carve it.

A few Magic Sculpt tips:

- Wet clay to smooth its surface.
- Sprinkle clay with talcum powder to prevent sticking.
- Wash your hands often.

- Super Sculpey (not regular Sculpey) is another option, however you need to bake it, then bind it to your vinyl with epoxy glue (see glue).

A few Super Sculpey tips:

- Bulk out your sculpt with tin foil.
- Cover the area that you want to build on with talcum powder or tin foil.
- When you are finished, stick your figure in the freezer for 30 minutes. This will make the clay rigid and easy to lift.
- Don't make your Super Sculpey thicker than a quarter inch or it won't cure all the way.
- Scratch the surface you will be gluing with sandpaper or a file so the glue has texture to bind to.

- Your hands are your best tools, but actual tools are helpful too. Here are some useful household items: small spoons, string or dental floss, paper clips, ice pick, wooden skewers, tweezers, sponge, pencils, manicure tools, rolling pins and X-Acto knives.

- Polymer clay is toxic, so wash your hands, protect your work surface and don't use any household tools for eating.

Cutting: Shape the Future

- Warm up your vinyl with a hair dryer to make it soft, then cautiously cut out your design with an X-Acto knife.
- Be careful! Soft vinyl cuts like butter.

Preservation: Keep Shining

- Applying a gloss finish to your masterpiece preserves MUNNY forever and prevents paint from chipping. Depending on the brand and number of coats, it will also make your figure shiny.
- Krylon's Crystal Clear spray works well, but you will definitely need to prime your figure or else it will stay sticky. If you don't like the look of shiny there are matte finishes available.
- In general 2 or 3 coats should give you a nice shine, while 1 coat will protect the paint job, but read the directions on the can before application.



- You can brush on your finish with polycrylic, a water-based polyurethane, available at any hardware store. If you take this route, make sure you apply it with a soft brush.
- Tape up the joints for finishing so you can easily remove and pop in pieces when it's dry.
- Apply finishes in a well-ventilated area and wear a mask.

Mistakes: You're Only Human...

- You can remove spray paint, primer, clear coat and most markers with acetone or nail polish remover.
- Acrylic paint can be easily scraped off.

Remember, **MUNNY** loves you for who you are, mistakes and all!

MUNNY[®]

