

General tips for working with FIMO leather-effect



What is FIMO leather-effect?

[FIMO leather-effect](#) is an oven-hardening modelling clay that can be shaped and worked in the same way as FIMO soft. After hardening it looks and feels similar to leather, and you can feel the effect even when you're kneading it. Unlike other oven-hardening types of FIMO, FIMO leather-effect is hardened for 30 minutes at 130° C / 266° F. After hardening, thinly-rolled sheets are highly flexible, and can be bent, cut with scissors, punched or sewn, for example. This modelling clay is ideal for making unique jewellery pieces such as earrings, necklaces or bracelets. It also makes wonderful leather effect decorations for your home.

This handbook provides useful information on FIMO leather-effect:

- [Benefits of FIMO leather-effect at a glance](#)
- [General tips for working with FIMO](#)
- [Tips for working with unhardened FIMO leather-effect](#)
- [Special hardening process for FIMO leather-effect](#)

► The different ways you can work with FIMO leather-effect after hardening are set out in the [handbook Working with FIMO leather-effect](#).

Benefits of FIMO leather-effect at a glance

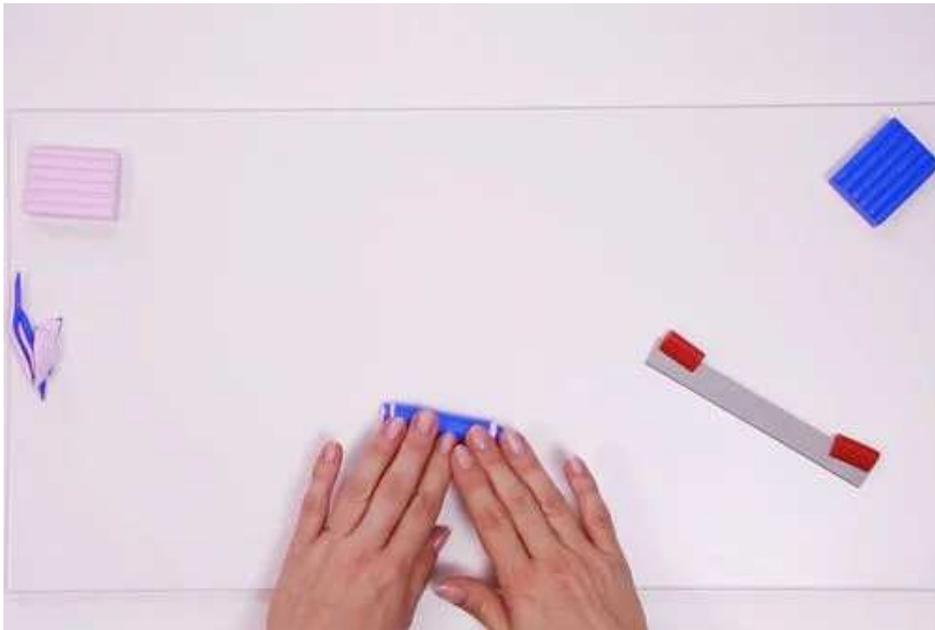
Benefits before hardening

- You can shape or work FIMO leather-effect in any way you like, e.g. by embossing patterns or lettering.
- You can achieve the thickness you want for your FIMO sheet by rolling it out as appropriate.
- Leather effects vary: the more firmly you compress the modelling clay (e.g. by rolling it out), the smoother the leather effect you will create. If you pull the clay apart gently by hand after rolling it out, the leather effect will have more of a “raw” look.
- FIMO leather-effect (and FIMO in general) is what is known as self adhesive, i.e. when two pieces of FIMO are placed on top of each other, they will stick together. Pressing and smoothing the clay will strengthen the bonding. So you can lay two colours on top of each other, for instance, creating different colours on the front and back. FIMO will also stick to glasses and tins, making them easy to cover. (Individual FIMO decorations (e.g. little hearts, etc.) applied to items after hardening will not stick permanently)

Benefits after hardening

- The FIMO leather-effect look is visible on both sides after hardening. This is particularly useful if you are creating earrings, handbag charms, etc.
- FIMO leather-effect is especially flexible and bendable after hardening. When FIMO leather-effect is rolled out thin, it can be punched, sewn (by hand or with a sewing machine) and cut into shapes with scissors.

General tips for working with FIMO

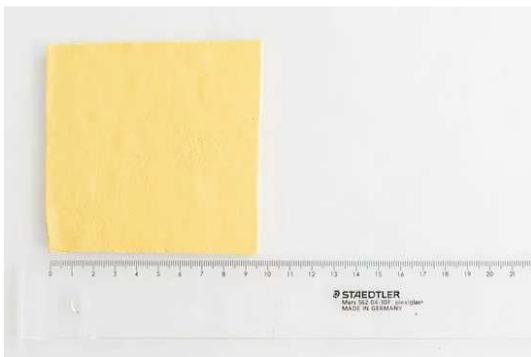


Choosing the right working surface

You can use a range of working surfaces for FIMO: **tiles**, **glass sheets** or **baking paper**. These surfaces ensure that no unwanted patterns are created on the FIMO as you work. They are also particularly easy to remove the modelling clay from.

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Tips for working with unhardened FIMO leather-effect



What should I be aware of when working with unhardened FIMO leather-effect?

FIMO leather-effect can be worked in a similar way to FIMO soft, but it shrinks slightly once hardened. So if you need one of your creations to be a specific size, you should initially work with a slightly larger size. You can then cut it to your desired size (e.g. with scissors) after hardening.

How can I intensify the leather look effect?

If you pull the clay apart evenly in different directions after rolling out, the leather effect will become more obvious. The further you pull the clay apart, the more obvious the leather effect will be.



Can colours be combined with each other?

Colours can be combined with each other. Twisting them together gently will create a beautiful marbling effects, for instance. It's also possible to create patterns and colour blends. Kneading your chosen colours together thoroughly will create a new solid colour.

Can FIMO leather-effect be combined with other oven-hardening types of FIMO (e.g. FIMO soft)?

FIMO leather-effect can be combined with FIMO soft, for instance.

But its important to note that the more FIMO soft you add to the mix, the less pronounced the leather effect, and flexibility of your hardened pieces, will be.



Does FIMO leather-effect behave like FIMO soft and other types of FIMO when you use it?



How can I soften FIMO leather-effect?



How much do you get from a block of FIMO leather-effect?



How can I remove lint and fingerprints from FIMO modelling clay?



Can I create 3D figures (sculptures)?



Hardening process for FIMO leather-effect



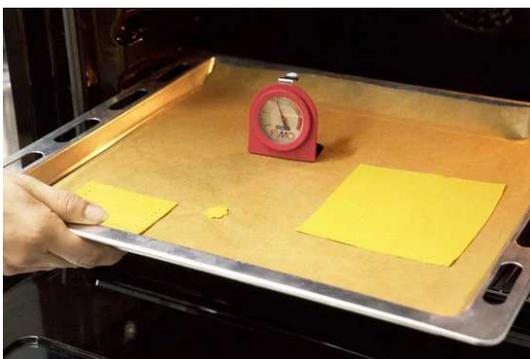
How do I harden FIMO leather-effect?

Preheat the oven to **130°C / 266 °F (upper and lower heat)**. Once it is up to temperature, place your pieces in the oven and harden them for **30 minutes**.

Since every oven is different, we recommend you use an oven thermometer to make sure nothing burns and your pieces don't take on any undesirable colour. It's important to control the temperature during hardening and ensure that you do not exceed the recommended temperature or baking time. (FIMO should not be hardened in the microwave.)

How should I harden pieces that have a combination of FIMO leather-effect and other types of oven-hardening FIMO?

Combinations can be hardened at 130°C / 266 °F.



Can FIMO leather-effect be hardened with convection heat, or on several baking sheets at once?

To achieve optimal hardening of FIMO leather-effect, you should **use only one baking sheet in the oven** at a time. Pieces should be hardened for 30 minutes at 130°C / 266 °F on upper and lower heat.

Can FIMO pieces that have already been hardened be put back into the oven?

We recommend that FIMO leather-effect is hardened once only under the conditions set out above.