DORODANGO
SHINE BRIGHT WITH MUD



Transform everyday dirt into a gleaming ornament. Dorodango reminds us that beauty can blossom from the simplest, most humble materials—and so can kindness.

What You'll Need:

- ❏ Clean, dry dirt (sifted if you can—fine grains work best)
- ❏ A small amount of water
- ❏ Your hands (gloves optional)—there's something grounding and healing about feeling the earth in your palms.
- ❏ A glass jar or a bottle with a smooth round surface rim
- ❏ A soft cloth (microfiber, old t-shirt, or towel)
- ❏ A spot where your creation can dry between stages

Kindness Connection:
This RAKtivity is more than an object—it's a meditation in transformation. Just as a rough clod of earth becomes something radiant with patience and touch, kindness lets us reveal the beauty in others—and within ourselves.

Share the Light:
Align your creation with a kind gesture: Gift someone your Dorodango and say, "May your day be shaped with care and polished with kindness."

Host a mini Dorodango-making moment with friends or family, sharing dirt from special places, and each soul taking home a shimmering orb.

Steps:

1. Gather & Prep the Dirt
Collect some dirt—perhaps from a favorite place or memory-laden spot. Remove any twigs, rocks, and stones. Use a sieve or cheesecloth for additional filtering.

2. Mix to "Brownie Batter" Consistency
Add a small amount of water to the dirt and stir until it forms a thick, clay-like paste. You want it damp enough to stick together, but not so wet that it becomes runny.

3. Shape the Sphere
Form a round ball with both hands, gently squeezing out excess water. Seal cracks by softly pressing damp dirt into them. Place ball into a plastic bag to dry slowly and evenly - about 12–14 hours.

4. Refine the Form
When the ball is cool to the touch but still slightly flexible, roll it around the top of a smooth glass rim – like the lip of a mason jar or glass (the size of the opening diameter will affect the final size). Remove any debris from the rim and fill in imperfections on the ball with slightly damp dirt. Repeat these steps until the surface feels silky and smooth. Leave your ball out to dry completely.

5. Quench & Pre-Polish
Briefly run the ball under cool water and resume rolling it and shaping it using your smooth glass rim. This creates that inner sheen, producing a lovely glow within an hour.

6. Final Polish
Dab or wrap the ball in a soft cloth (microfiber, dishrag, hand towel, even a sock). Gently do small circles using fingertips/thumb—starting small and expanding across the surface—until each area shines. Dorodango is fragile and may crack if polishing too much/too hard. Remember, the essence of this activity is to sit and create. Don't rush the process. After much polishing over the entire surface, your ball should glow.

7. Celebrate & Reflect
Find a special spot—on your desk, nightstand, or coffee table—and set your Dorodango in its place of honor. Let it spark conversations, memories, and the simple wonder of what arises when care meets nature.

make kindness the norm.

randomactsofkindness.org

Inspired by https://www.instructables.com/Dorodango-the-Art-of-Polishing-Dirt/