



work project

The Ultimate Cookout!

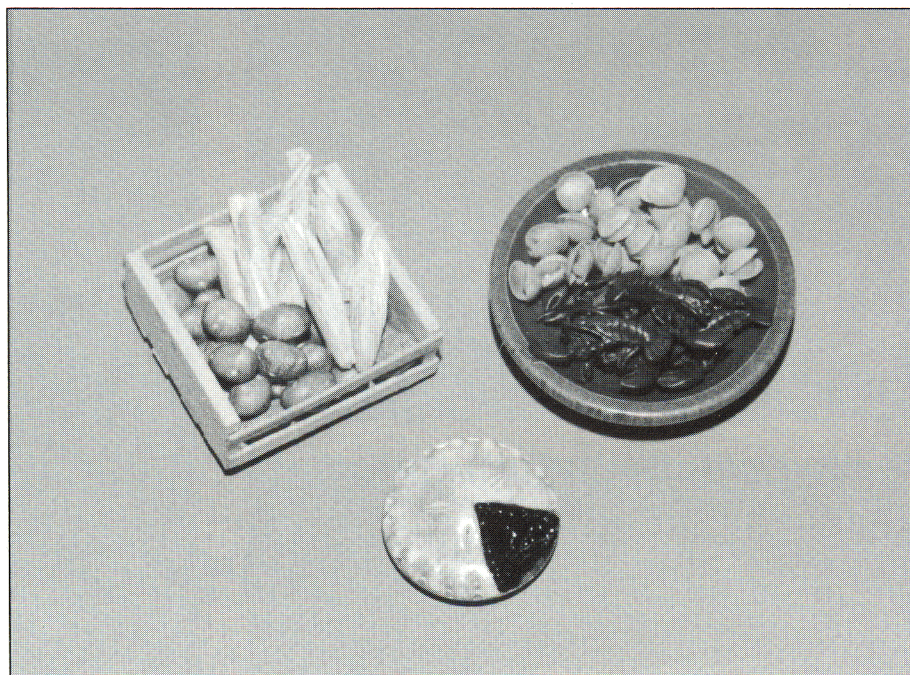
Maine Shore Dinner or New England Clambake

by Mary Eccher

Clams, lobsters and sweet corn—mountains of them—are the heart of it all! Anything else added to the pile, such as new potatoes, onions, crabs, chicken or whole fish, is just icing on the cake! Serve it all up with baskets of bread and a crock of sweet butter and top it all off with oversized deep-dish berry pies. The Maine Shore Dinner is a true seafood feast for the eyes as well as the palate.

A story is told about an early colonist who, walking along the shore, came upon a group of Indians clustered around a large pile covered with a blanket. Tantalizing clouds of steam seeped from the edges of the blanket, emitting a delightful aroma which the colonist found irresistible. He shouted in delight, tore off his jacket and joined the group to share their feast. That was the first Maine Shore Dinner, and the natives have been justifiably proud of their harvest of the sea ever since.

The clambake is something else again, although the ingredients are often the same. Once the lobsters and clams have been collected, a long pit is dug in the sand. A wood fire is laid and, when it's hot, rocks, coals, and more wood are added. After several hours all the wood is removed, leaving just the hot coals and rocks. A layer of seaweed is placed over the coals. Then, on go the lobsters, clams, and corn, wrapped in separate burlap bags, and another layer of seaweed. A potato in a knitted rope bag is placed on top and the whole pile is covered by a canvas. Why the potato? It's a natural timer. The potato turns out to be very important—when it is cooked, the seafood and corn are most likely done, too.



MAINE SHORE DINNER OR NEW ENGLAND CLAMBAKE

This kit will show you how to make some of the ingredients for a Maine Shore Dinner or New England Clambake in miniature. Should you wish to expand your feast, I have explained the various Fimo mixtures and paint colors used for the ingredients in the materials section.

MATERIALS INCLUDED IN KIT:

LOBSTERS (5)

Metal lobsters spray painted with rust colored automobile primer.

CLAMS (25)

Apple Blossom shells painted with Folk Art acrylic color, Butter Pecan. Clam-color Fimo is a mixture of transparent Fimo and touch of ochre Fimo.

CORN (6)

Yellow Fimo. Beige crepe paper brushed with dry Tempera Paint, Light Green.

POTATOES (25)

Off-white Fimo is a mixture of white Sculpey Modelling Compound with a touch of ochre Fimo. Red-Brown Artist's Chalk Dust.

BLUEBERRY PIE (1)

Off-white Fimo is a mixture of white Sculpey Modelling Compound with a touch of ochre Fimo. Ochre Artist's Chalk Dust. Navy Blue Fimo. **WOODEN BOWL, WOODEN CRATE AND PIE TIN.**

You will also need an X-acto knife, toothpicks, 527 Contact Cement, Dark Blue Glass Stain, Rubber Cement, and Fimo Matte Lacquer. (Optional - black felt-tip marker to add highlights to clams and lobsters.)

CLAMS

Note: Apple Blossom shells are fragile—work gently!

Organize shells by pairing off similar-sized shells. Break off a tiny piece of clam-colored Fimo and glue into a shell using 527 Contact Cement and a toothpick. Then glue second shell at hinge to form clam, leaving clam partially open. Place all finished clams in a baking pan and bake in home oven at 250 degrees for ten minutes.

When cool, arrange and glue lobsters and clams in the large wooden bowl. (Optional - highlight clams and lobsters with a black felt-tip marker.) Paint all with Fimo Matte Lacquer.

CORN

Using yellow Fimo, roll ears of corn on flat surface and shape to approximately 5/8" in length and 3/16" wide at center. (Although not necessary for this project, if you wish to simulate kernels, press formed ear onto a piece of fine netting - reshape.) Bake ears in baking pan in home oven at 250 degrees for ten minutes.

For husks, cut rectangles from

crepe paper, 1" in length— with grain of crepe paper running vertically by 1-1/2" wide. Using a toothpick, apply a thin coat of rubber cement to the uncolored side of husk. Place ear of corn at edge of husk and gently roll husk completely around ear. Twist together at top. When dry, trim away any excess husk.

POTATOES

Using off-white modelling compound, roll irregular shaped balls approximately 1/4" in diameter. With a toothpick, poke several "eyes" in the potato. Bake in home oven at 250 degrees for ten minutes.

When cool, coat potatoes with red/brown artist's chalk dust by rubbing it on with your fingertips.

Arrange and glue corn and potatoes into crate. Paint all—including husks on corn—with Fimo Matte Lacquer.

BLUEBERRY PIE

Using off-white modelling compound, roll a ball sized to fit your pie tin and to rise slightly above it. Press into pie tin and shape top of pie toward center with your fingertips. Flute

edges of pie with toothpick. Cut five slits in top of pie with X-acto knife. Bake in home oven at 250 degrees for ten minutes. Remove from oven and while still warm, cut a piece out of pie (the size of two mini slices) with X-acto knife. For a "just baked" look, coat top of pie with Ochre Artist's Chalk Dust by rubbing it on with fingertips. Paint top of pie with Fimo Matte Lacquer.

Using navy blue Fimo, roll approximately forty tiny balls for blueberries about the size of a pin-head. Bake in oven at 250 degrees for ten minutes.

When cool, place some of the blueberries into the cut-out of pie. Using a toothpick, drizzle a drop or two of Dark Blue Glass Stain onto blueberries in cut-out, stir them slightly and coax them up onto the sides of the cut-out. Add more blueberries and stain if necessary until pie has the illusion of being full of berries. The glass stain will act as a glue and also simulate the juice in the pie.