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Beginner's guide for ceramic pottery

Presentation · March 2018

DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.28895.51369

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Ceramic Pottery A beginner's Guide

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A beginners guide to the art of ceramics

The "Ceramic Pottery " is designed for the beginner as a step by step guide to making ceramics. This guide is designed to give you the most basic techniques and some tips. Each Guide has illustrations as well as text to explain each step.

List of techniques covered in this guide booklet

1. Pinch Pottery
2. Coil Pottery
3. Slab Technique used to create cube
4. Throwing
 - * Making of Saucer
 - * Making of Cylinder
 - * Making of Bowl
 - * Making of Cup

'Clay is unique in its ability to be moulded by hand into objects of beauty that become permanent when exposed to great heat. This wonderful natural material allows artists to create both functional and purely decorative work, the possibilities are more or less endless. Nowadays We are fortunate in being able to draw on a store of knowledge passed down through the centuries, which is continually being added with new experiments and technical developments.' - Marylin Scott

Preparation of Clay

Whether we use a handbuilding or wheel-based Technique, we first need to ensure an even consistency Throughout the clay's mass. This involves physically Coaxing the clay into a homogenous state by *wedging and kneading*. A pugmill can be used for this process, dispensing with the need to wedge and knead the clay by hand, but many still prefer to wedge and knead after pugging to ensure that the clay particles are evenly aligned. A clay mass with an uneven consistency that Has not been prepared well will be almost impossible to throw on the wheel.



The cut the clay with wire to check for lumps, air pockets and foreign bodies and if still uneven continue to knead, turning the clay by 45 * before resuming

Pinch Pottery

Making of Bowl by pinching of clay



Preparation of clay



Begin with a ball of clay



Push your thumb into the center.
Then pinch up the walls.



Turn the piece as you pinch.
This will help you to keep
an even thickness in the walls
of the piece.



Finishing the rim of the
bowl



Gently pat the bottom on a
flat surface to create a flat
spot on the bottom of the
piece.



Finished bowl by pinching



Bigger Bowl made by
Pinch Pottery

Coil Pottery

Making pencil stand by coil Technique



Make a circular slab



Cutting out the base



Base of the pencil stand



When hand rolling coils, use a smooth surface and spreading your hands to apply even pressure. Gently roll the clay back and forth.



Apply slip on to the base



Roll the first layer of coil



Cutting of the coil



Apply slip-after each layer of coil



Rolling the coil



After completely rolling the coil finish the top rim of the coil



Finished pencil Stand by coil Technique

Slab technique-Making of Cube



Spreading the clay



Rolling out the clay



Cutting the slabs



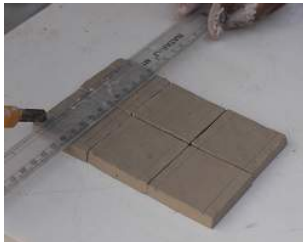
Remove the unwanted Parts of the slab



Measure and cut the required number of squares



Let the clay firm-up and separate the squares



Make measurements and cut the edges of the squares at an Angle of 45* and score or scratch the edges of the square slabs



Apply the slip and fix the square slab



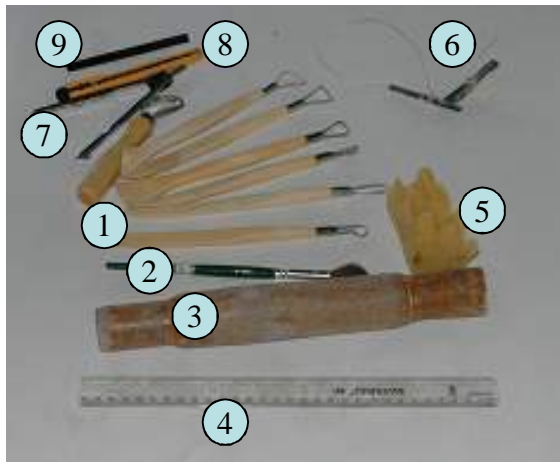
Apply slip to all the edges of the cut square slabs and join the slabs the Raise the walls of the cube



Apply slip and close the top slab of the cube and Smoothen the edges and give the finishing touches to the cube

Finished cube made by Slab technique

Tools required for Throwing



- 1 Ribbon tool
- 2 Brush
- 3 Roller
- 4 Ruler
- 5 Sponge
- 6 Wire
- 7 Compass
- 8 NT Cutter
- 9 Comb tooth Blade
- 10 Electric Potter's wheel

Techniques of throwing

A round, moist lump of clay body is thrown down onto the wheel head or a bat attached to it. The lump is made even and forced to the centre of the wheel by applying pressure with the hands. The thrower finds the center of the clay by moving a thumb across the lump until no more friction is felt. The thumb is pressed into the center of the lump, stopping about 5 mm from the wheel head. The hole thus made is widened. The sides thus defined are pulled up and made thinner by pressure between the hands. The vessel is shaped, and the mouth is smoothed. The vessel is cut from the wheel head with a cheese wire and left to stiffen. Sometimes the stiffened vessel is inverted on the wheel and trimmed with a sharp tool.

Throwing-Centring-Making of Saucer



First weigh the clay to be used for making the Saucer



Throw the clay to the wheel

Centring - force the clay to the centre of the wheel by applying pressure with the hands

Press and Push the hand outwards



Flattening- Top hand compresses and widens the clay, the fingertips of the hand underneath control its growth.



Finishing the top Surface of the saucer

Finishing the rim of the saucer

Dry the saucer till leatherhard and cut the saucer with wire



Dry the saucer completely

Trimming the saucer on the base and on the top of the saucer to finish the saucer

Making of Cylinder by Throwing



Hollow and Levelling



Opening out outwards



Lifting up the wall



Lifting up the wall



Levelling the wall with the ruler



Levelling the rim of the cylinder



Allow the cylinder to Dry- leatherhard



Wire tool used for cutting The cylinder from wheel base



Cut the completed Cylinder using wire



To check uniform Wall thickness while learning cut the cylinder vertical at the centre from the wheel base using wire tool

Making of Bowl by Throwing



Centring - force the clay to the centre of the wheel by applying pressure with the hands



Opening with thumb finger

Levelling the rim

Levelling the wall



Lifting the wall of the cylinder

pushing the top of the cylinder outwards



Lifting the bowl

Pulling the bowl outwards

Final lifting of bowl



Finishing with ruler

Finishing the rim

Cut the finished bowl

Making of Cup by Throwing



Throw the clay to the wheel

Centring - force the clay to the centre of the wheel by applying pressure with the hands



Opening out

Levelling the rim

Levelling the wall of the cylinder



Lifting the wall

Shaping the cup

Finishing with ruler



Shaping of cup

Cut out excess height with needle

Finish the Rim

Cut the finished cup with wire tool



Make handle by Slab technique

Fix the handle with clay slurry and slip

Finished cup

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