

Ceramics

Basics and Coil Construction

What is Clay?

- **Clay:** a variety of earth materials formed by the breaking down of granite into fine particles so that it will be *plastic*.
- **Plasticity:** the quality of clay that allows it to be manipulated (with the aid of water) and still maintain its shape without cracking or sagging.
- **Clay Body:** natural clay mixed with additional properties for more specific qualities.
- **Grog:** rocky substance in clay to give tooth, or texture, and strength. Clay body shrinks less with it.



Earth has an effect on Clay



Sedona, AZ has large deposits of Iron (FeO)



What types of clay are there?

- **Earthenware:** low-fire clay (fired below 2000 degrees, under cone 6), typically red or tan in color.



- **Stoneware:** high-fire ware (above cone 8, up to 2305 degrees) absorbs little to no water (typically your dishes at home).



- **Porcelain:** a hard, **vitreous** clay body that is white to gray in color, rings when struck, can have some transparency, and is fired generally from cone 8 to cone 16 (2305-2683 degrees) contains Kaolin, mostly found in China.



- **Vitreous:** Pertaining to the hard, glassy, non-absorbent quality of a clay body or glaze.

Stages of Clay Drying

- **Slip:** watered down clay that can be used for adhering two pieces of clay together, casting, and decoration when colored.
- **Plastic:** just enough water within the clay that it is malleable to sculpt and build without cracking.
- **Leather hard:** some water has evaporated to give clay sturdiness. Great stage for detail work, burnishing, slip decoration, will tear versus stretch if pulled apart. Still cool to the touch.
- **Bone Dry/Greenware:** all water has evaporated and is ready for bisque firing; clay is very fragile. No longer cool to the touch.



Preparing and Reclaiming Clay

- **Wedging:** kneading plastic clay with the fingers and heel of hands in a rocking spiral motion, which forces out trapped air pockets and develops uniform texture. Techniques are called: spiral and ram's head.
- **Reclaiming Clay:** the recycling of clay by either running it through a *Pug Mill*, or by breaking down small chunks of clay, blending it up, and drying it to the plastic state on a plaster board.
- **Pug Mill:** a machine for mixing plastic clay; clay comes out in uniform log shape.



Ways to create with clay

- **Additive:** technique that is performed through the joining of material to build up a surface.
- **Subtractive:** technique performed through the taking away of material.



Keep in mind that the walls should be pinky width thick

Storing Projects

Bat + Newspaper + Project + Plastic Bag



**Place in
Bin**

*Do NOT use Canvas to store your project!!!
Grows mold because of moistness in the fibers.*

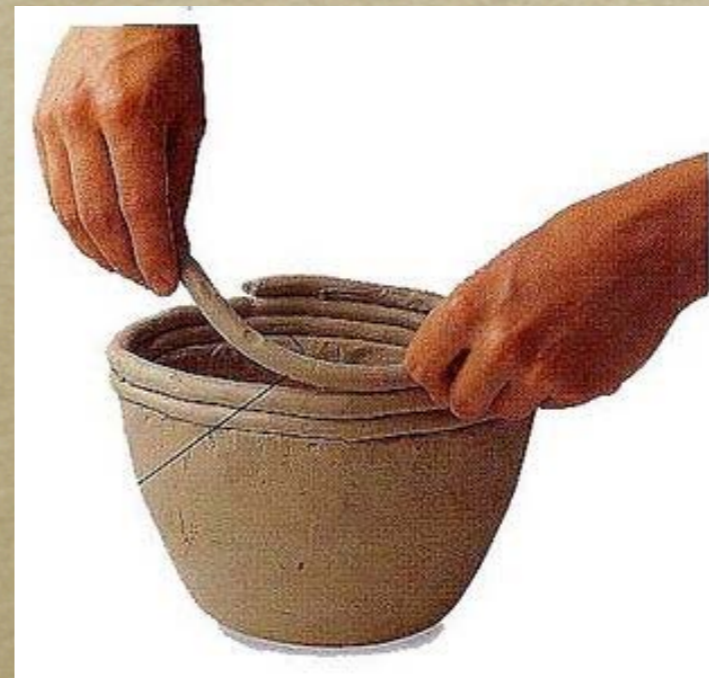
Hand-building 101

- ***Pinch:** method by molding the clay body through squeezing and pinching with hands and fingers.*
- ***Coil:** method of forming pottery by building up the walls with rope-like coils of clay then smoothing over joints.*
- ***Slab:** method of working with rolled out flat pieces of clay to build up a form.*



Handbuilding: Coil

- **Coiling:** a handbuilding method of forming pottery by building up the walls with rope-like coils of clay and then smoothing over the joints.
- *You always need to *score*, slip, and *weld* each rope together for a strong bond so clay shrinks together, not apart as water evaporates.
- **Score:** breaking up clay plates with a serrated edged rib, needle tool, fork, or toothbrush even works with both clay pieces are soft enough.
- **Weld:** blending of two clay pieces together to join plates within clay body.



Pre-Bisque Decorative Options

Modeling



Modeling tools

Impression

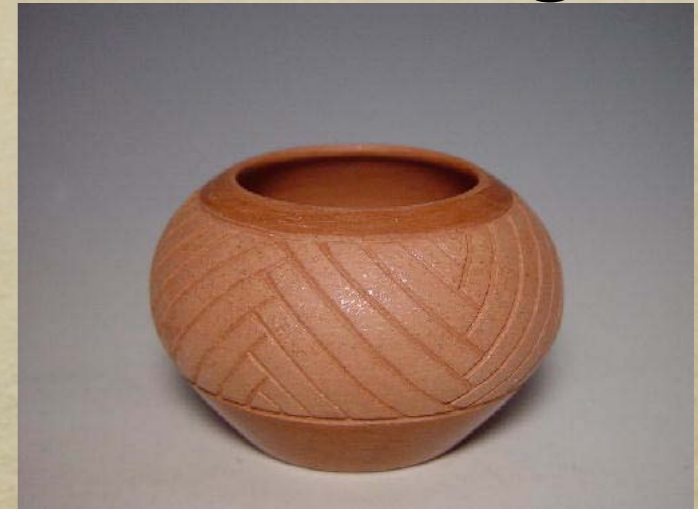


*fabric, objects, plants,
texture sheets*

Piercing



Burnishing



**only can be done with
at the leatherhard stage*

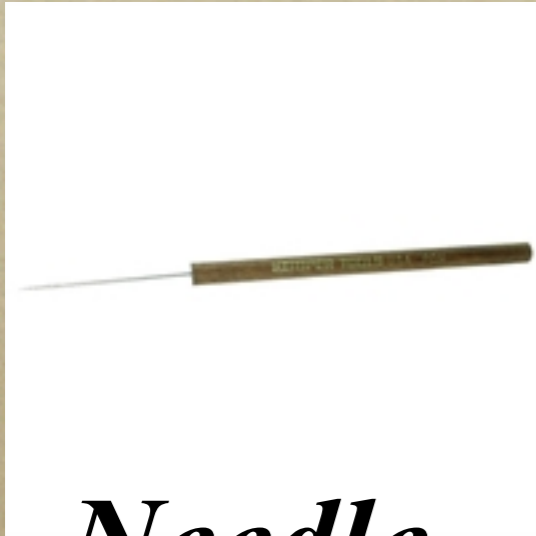
Sgraffito



Loop tools

**Quiz Friday on
Terms!!**

Tools helpful in coil



*Needle
tool*



Wooden rib



Serrated Rib



Banding Wheel



Paddle

Creating your sketches

- *2 different designs; 2 sketches per design, iTunesU post from last week shares a visual expectation of this **Due Wed in Showbie as added images in Coil Sketches folder.***
- *sketch in a sketchbook, SketchbookX or Pages by 53 apps. Find imagery you may want to include on your piece.*
- *decide if your design is strictly utilitarian (functional), narrative (tells a story), conceptual (idea based) or functional decorative.*
- *Includes 5 art elements and 2 principles*
- *incorporates country from art analysis in the design somehow. Checklist for total project design and construction on iTunes U.*

My Webpage-Land of Plasticity

- Link is available via iTunes U in the section about Mrs. Canavan.
- Videos (can only watch at home because of Youtube) and this slideshow available for viewing.

