



Cheat Sheet

Pinch Pot

School Name:
Teachers Name:
Ceramics and Pottery I
Grades 6 - 12
[Dates]

<p>project #1</p> <h2>PINCH POTS</h2> <p>BUILDING THE POT</p>	
<h3>SKETCH</h3> <p>SKETCH THE SHAPE</p>	<p>This should correlate to the grading rubric so students know what is expected of them.</p>
<h3>BALL OF CLAY</h3> <p>MAKE A BALL OF CLAY THAT FITS COMFORTABLY IN YOUR HAND</p>	<p>Each student should have approximately a pound of clay. Precut the clay to distribute and to make sure students don't use too much, which would make the process more difficult.</p>
<h3>BALL OF CLAY</h3> <p>PRESS IN TWICE WITH YOUR THUMBS TO CREATE AN OPENING</p>	<p>Encourage students to press as close to the center as possible so the sides will come up evenly. The first press determines the depth of the bottom and this does not usually change throughout the process. If they make it too thin it is difficult if not impossible to fix later.</p>



Pinch Pot

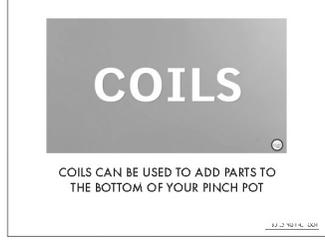
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 <p>USE YOUR THUMB TO OPEN THE 'FLOOR' OF THE PINCH POT</p> <small>© 2014 AMACO</small>	<p>Stress to students to work on the “floor” of their pot. They should not pinch and press the sides or it will flair out too quickly. At this point their goal is to open up the bottom and change it from a four-leaf clover to a circle. They should not press directly on the bottom or it may make it too thin.</p>
 <p>PINCH CLAY UP USING YOUR THUMB</p> <small>© 2014 AMACO</small>	<p>If students just pinch the clay walls their pot will flair out into a plate and not a bowl form. It is important to have them put their thumb on the inside (not their fingers or the form will open too much) and gently pull the clay up. The pressure should stop short of the rim (if this thins out too much it's difficult to fix). Talk to students when they are working on this part – slow them down so they are working a little at a time going round and round until the wall thickness is even and about the thickness of a yellow pencil.</p>
 <p>IF THE CLAY DRIES OUT, USE A DAMP SPONGE TO MOISTEN YOUR HANDS</p> <small>© 2014 AMACO</small>	<p>Most students want to add water to the clay, which would make the clay a slippery mess. Instead give them a small container of water with a sponge so they can moisten their hands. Some student's clay will crack more than others as it dries.</p>
 <p>ONCE IT'S A BOWL SHAPE, PRESS THE BOTTOM DOWN INTO A BOWL SHAPE</p> <small>© 2014 AMACO</small>	<p>Students are usually successful making the bottom and the walls thin enough, but they often leave too much clay about one-fourth of the way up where the sides and floor meet. Rather than pinch this clay up, once they have a bowl shape they should pinch the cavity down, for this will give their pinch pot a better shape. Students should not set their pinch pot on the table or it will flatten out like a cake pan rather than keeping the shape of a round bowl.</p>
 <p>WRAP YOUR WORK IN PLASTIC</p> <small>© 2014 AMACO</small>	<p>This is a good time to wrap the project until the next class or session so it will slightly firm up and not be so wobbly. The tighter you wrap it the more moist it will stay. If you need the project to dry slightly wrap it loosely with some air in the bag.</p>



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	<p>The following tools help with building the foot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bamboo Skewer• Popsicle Stick• Paint Brush• Fettling Knife
	<p>The exterior is more difficult to smooth than the interior. If students want a smooth exterior, try a popsicle stick or scraper. Once the clay has firmed up slightly students can lightly pinch the rim to make the walls look even. If students have already pinched the rims too thin you might want to skip this step. Students need to smooth the rim before they continue, as any visible cracks will become larger as their pots dry and are fired.</p>
	<p>Coils seem so simple but students can have difficulty rolling them. Encourage students to use small amounts of moist clay. Larger pieces or firm clay are difficult for anyone to roll. If the coil becomes oval rather than round, the clay may be too stiff or the student may not be pressing hard enough. Have them stand up and roll the coil using their entire hand slowly, from the fingertips to the wrist. They will get better with this over time.</p>
	<p>It is important to make sure students know they have to score and slip all pieces of clay together. They can use a pin tool (or similar tool even if it's a paper clip or bamboo skewer) and scratch the surface. Only add slip to one of the two surfaces so attachments are not too wet and slippery. Encourage students to dab the slip on instead of brushing so they don't smooth out all the scraping they have done with their pin tool.</p>



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<p>ATTACHMENTS</p> <p>MAKE DIFFERENT ATTACHMENTS TO ADD TO THE BASE</p>	<p>At this point students work on making a variety of parts that can be added to the base of their pinch pot. Set the requirement for how many parts should be added to the base (explain that the pinch pot should not touch the table). This gives students experience with simple fabrication and they will learn how to securely attach clay parts together so they will not come apart later. This will prepare them for more complex construction later.</p>
<p>SCORE & SLIP</p> <p>CHOOSE 2 OR MORE AREAS FOR THE ATTACHMENT POINTS</p> <p>LAY OUT THE DIFFERENT ATTACHMENT POINTS THEN SLIP & SCORE</p>	<p>Encourage students to play with parts they have made. Depending on the grade level set your criteria so students will challenge themselves instead of making all simple shapes. After parts have been scored and slipped, press firmly together then give them a little twist. Once there is a slight resistance parts are more likely to stay attached.</p>
<p>ATTACH 2ND COIL</p> <p>SCORE & SLIP THE ATTACHMENTS</p> <p>MORE COILS OR SHAPES CAN BE ADDED</p>	<p>Students continue to stack parts to develop their idea. They may have to start and end with a coil, it's up to you.</p>
<p>project #1</p> <h2>PINCH POTS</h2> <p>UNDERGLAZING</p>	
<p>SCRUB RIM</p> <p>CLEAN THE LEATHERHARD POT WITH A DAMP SCRUBBER PAD</p> <p>ONCE LEATHERHARD OR DRY, USE A MOIST POT SCRUBBER TO CLEAN & FINISH THE RIM</p>	<p>Once the pinch pot is leather-hard to bone dry, use a moist pot scrubber to clean and finish the rim.</p> <p>If students do not like the wavy, handmade look of their rim, they can trim it after the pot has set up slightly. Since it is difficult to cut this evenly, use a shredder (looks like a Surform tool you get at the hardware store or pottery supply). This tool will shave the top like a cheese grater. Students can mark a line first by using a ruler to steady their hand and a pin tool. They can either cut on the line or use a shredder to the line.</p>



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Have your students apply underglaze to their pieces. Remember to apply three coats of each underglaze color.

