

# brent® Throwing Basics

A step by step guide to help beginners get started on the pottery wheel

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Watch the  
step by step  
video **HERE!**

1. **Wedge SOFT clay** 20–30 times. Don't push too hard, flatten, or fold air bubbles in. Keep fingers on sides (like you're holding the ears) and press with the heel of your hands to the center. Tip clay to the left after wedging. That is the bottom.
2. **Place the Clay in exact center** of wheel head, tap with palm into a dome, and seal bottom edge.
3. **Center the clay** on medium speed, with foot off pedal, elbows down and in at hips.
4. **Wheel-wedge** – bring clay up into tall volcano shape, push down into hockey puck; repeat until no lumps or waves
5. **Open** – two fingers each hand in a V, don't go past center, press lightly and slowly to begin, left hand presses right middle finger back toward your body.
6. **Compress and Re-center** – C-shaped left hand with thumb down outside and fingers inside; right hand presses sponge down and in from the rim, then presses bottom slope in; repeat.
7. **Pull** – squeeze up (vertically) with left hand like an alligator mouth on the right-side wall, fingers in, thumb out; right hand presses sponge on top of the left thumb. Make vertical cylinders first! Same thickness bottom to top.
8. **Compress and Re-center** – press lightly down on rim with sponge in right hand while supporting the walls with left hand; or cup the cylinder with both hands, wrists together.
9. **Pull more** - cylinder must be the same thickness bottom to top.
10. **Create the Form** - Use both hands to press in or out, use ribs and other tools
11. **Trim the Rim** with a needle tool
12. **Clean the Rim** lightly with a sponge
13. **Trim the Bottom** with a wooden throwing knife or clay turning tool
14. Slowly Clean the mud off with a sponge.
15. (optional) **Add Decorative Details** or Manipulations like lines, decorative ribbing, ruffled top, points, spouts, geometric-shaped top, etc.
16. **Cut with a wire tool**. Place wire between index and middle finger and wrap it around the outside of your hand. Press down with thumbs and apart with both hands.
17. **Blow dry and remove piece**, or remove bat from wheel.
18. **Flip over and trim the bottom** when leatherhard.
20. **Inscribe** your name and date on the bottom.
21. (Optional) **Carve details** and/or add elements like handles, knobs, spouts, feet, lid, decorative objects (flowers, animals, etc.) or patterns.