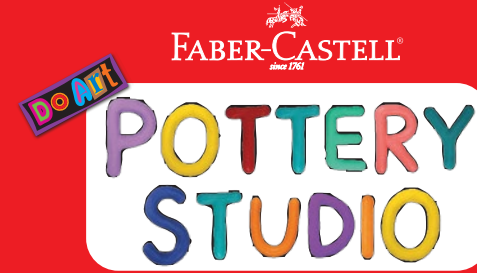


Additional clay and glaze paint
available in the Do Art Pottery
Studio Refill kit.

www.GreatArtStartsHere.com



Do Art Pottery Studio Refill #14596

- Air-dry clay
- Translucent glaze paint
- Paint brush
- Instructions and ideas



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Premium quality children's art supplies since 1761.

Do Art Pottery Studio 14595

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Designed in USA • Made in China

Conforms to ASTM D-4236 • Non-toxic Safe for Children

History of Pottery

The first pottery wheels were invented more than 6,000 years ago. From Egyptian pyramids to the ancient Aztecs, archeologists have uncovered decorative and useful pottery artifacts from all around the world.

In the past, every dish, bowl and decorative object had to be created by hand; now, machines do most of the work for us.

So where does clay come from? Clay is a natural, fine grained material that is dug from the earth. When exposed to fire or extreme heat the clay becomes rock hard.

Although natural clay is still used, the clay included in your kit is a synthetic based clay that looks and feels just like natural clay.

Using the materials included in your kit, you will learn the basic techniques of hand-sculpted pottery. Once you have mastered the basics, you are ready to move on to the pottery wheel.



Here are some terms you will need to know

Pottery Wheel – Machine used to throw pottery

Throwing – Making a pot using a pottery wheel

Wedging – Working the clay to get the air pockets out

Centering – Positioning the clay symmetrically on the wheel

Opening – Placing your fingers inside the center slab of clay to create a vessel

Foot – Bottom of the pot

Lip – Top edge of the pot

Trimming Tool – String with handles used to remove the pot from the wheel

Contents

Battery Operated Pottery Wheel

(needs 4 "C" batteries, not included)



Additional Supplies needed from home

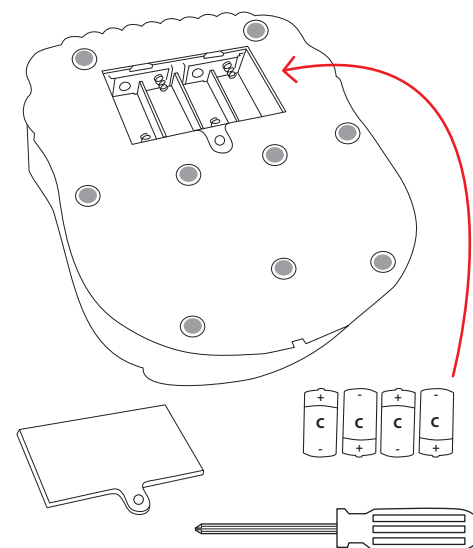
- Newspaper • Paper towels • Small plastic bowl for water
- Resealable plastic bags for clay storage • Phillips head screwdriver
- Cookie cutters • Tooth pick or paper clip • 4 "C" batteries

Important Pottery Wheel Safety

1. Keep the battery compartment free from moisture. Never submerge your pottery wheel in water. The round plate and tool arm can be removed for cleaning. The machine should only be wiped off with a damp towel or sponge.
2. The pottery wheel should be cleaned after each use. Dried clay on the plate will make it difficult for the wheel to turn and to place the clay flat on the wheel.
3. **Remember, all of the creations you make are for decorative purposes only and are NOT suitable for use with food or liquids.**

Cautions:

- Use only Alkaline batteries.
- Do not use non-rechargeable batteries.
- Do not mix different types of batteries or new and used batteries.
- Only batteries of the same or equivalent type as recommended should be used.
- Batteries are to be inserted with the correct polarity.
- Exhausted batteries are to be removed from the toy wheel.
- The supply terminals are not to be short-circuited.
- Packaging and instructions must be kept since they contain important information.



**ADULT
SUPERVISION
REQUIRED**

The battery compartment is located on the bottom of the pottery wheel. A Phillips head screwdriver is required for opening the battery compartment.

Important Information About the Paint:

- The paint included is a specially formulated non-toxic, acrylic paint that dries permanently on most surfaces, so be careful!
- Cover your work surface with newspaper or the included table cover. Have a cup of water and paper towels handy.
- Wear a smock, apron or old clothes. This acrylic paint can stain. Clean up any spills immediately with soap and water.
- Paint can settle and separate over time. Mix each color thoroughly before you begin painting. If the paint seems too thick, stir in a drop or two of water.
- Before changing colors, rinse and dry your brush thoroughly.

Getting Started

Working with clay can get messy, but getting messy is part of the fun. You will want to wear old clothes and your crafting apron. Be sure to cover your table with newspaper and the plastic table cover.

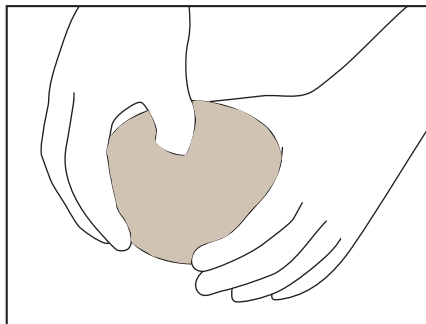
Have your cup of water ready and all of your tools close by. Your clay is separated into three one pound packs. You will not need an entire pound to make a pot or vase. Start with one third of the package. Put the rest back in a sealable storage bag.

Remember – once you open your clay, it will begin to dry out. Place any unused clay inside a sealed plastic bag.

Pinch Pots

This is a great beginning project –all you need is a little clay and your hands.

- Break off a hunk of clay about the size of a ping pong ball and begin kneading or “wedging” the clay to remove any air bubbles or pockets.
- Roll the clay into a ball. Holding the clay in one hand, insert the thumb of the other hand into the center. Do not push your thumb all the way through. The bottom or base of your pot should be $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (.63cm - 1.90cm) thick.
- As you rotate the ball of clay, use your thumb and fingers to pinch and form the sides of your pot. As you work, you will leave finger marks. You can leave them in or smooth them out.



- Clay shapes dry from the top first. Keep your lip slightly thicker than the foot of your pot to help prevent cracking.

Pinch Pots Continued...

- To slow down the drying time, dampen your hands slightly and run them over your pot as you work. If the edges crack, apply a little water with your sponge to smooth them out. **Caution – use only a small amount of water, too much water will cause the pot to collapse.**
- When your bowl is finished, stabilize the base by tapping it gently on a flat surface. Turn the pot over and let it dry on its lip. Once it dries slightly you can add texture or smooth the surface using your clay tools.

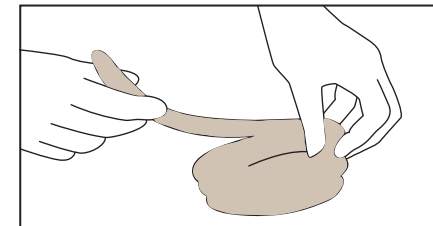


Set your piece aside to dry overnight. Once your piece is completely dry you can decorate it with paint. Adding the white base coat first will make your colors more vibrant. The translucent glaze will give your pieces a kiln-like finish. The acrylic paint strip will give your pottery an opaque finish.

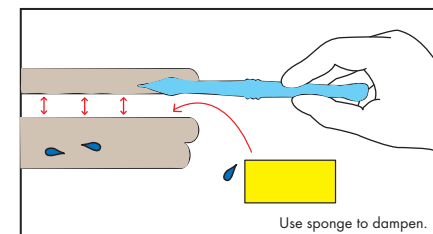
Coil Pots

- Take a lump of clay and squeeze it until it resembles a thick rope. Dampen your hands slightly, and roll the clay. Continue rolling until you get a nice even rope – approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (.63cm - 1.27cm) thick. If your rope is too thin you will not be able to create a pot.
- Wind the rope into a coil to create the base of your pot. Continue winding the rope to create the sides of your pot. You can also make individual coils and stack them together to create your pot.

- To bring the pot in, lay the coils towards the inner edge as you work your way up the pot. To widen your pot lay the coils on the outer edge.



- When placing clay pieces together, use your tool to slightly etch both surfaces. Dampen and then press the pieces together. This etching helps hold the pieces together.



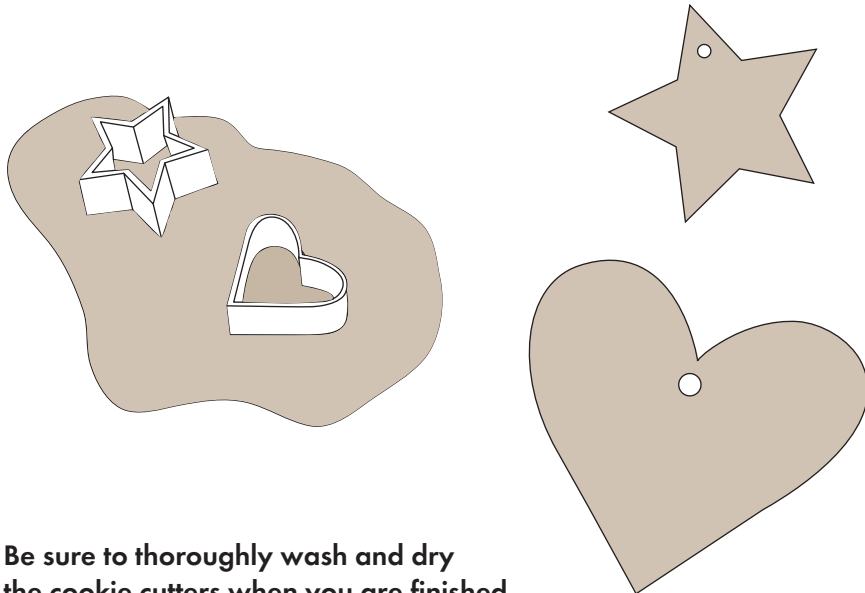
Coil Pots continued...

- You can leave the texture of the coils or smooth them with your fingers. Let your pot dry overnight and then decorate with paint.



Create an ornament

Roll out a slab of clay approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (.63cm) thick. Using cookie cutters, cut out the shape you want. Push the clay out of the cutter. Using a pencil, toothpick or the handle of your paintbrush, add a hole at the top. The hole should be large enough to insert a ribbon or string for hanging. Draw details into your ornament with your tools.



Be sure to thoroughly wash and dry the cookie cutters when you are finished.

Hand-sculpted Clay

Since clay is so moldable, you can create almost any shape. You can make whimsical animals, flowers, aliens, bugs, monsters, doll house miniatures, cartoon characters -whatever you can dream up. Here are just a few examples of the things you can make.



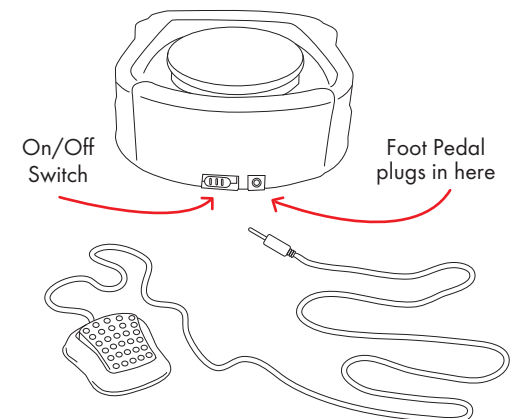
Clay beads - Clay beads can be made in almost any shape and size. Just remember to use a paper clip or tooth pick to add a hole for stringing your beads. You can also create beads using slabs of clay and cookie cutters.

Now that you have mastered the basics, you are ready to move on to the pottery wheel.

Using your Pottery Wheel

Be sure you ask for adult assistance when installing the batteries. **Note - If the wheel starts to slow down, it may be time to replace the batteries.**

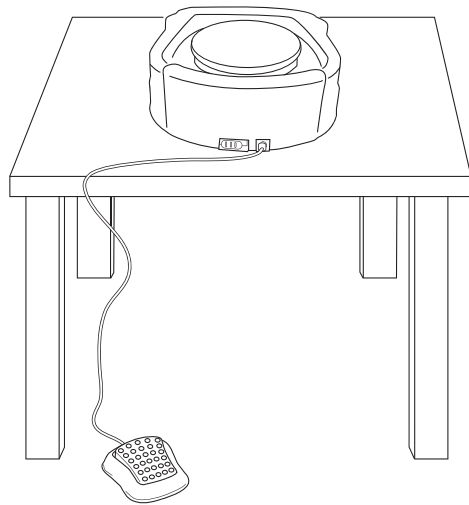
There is an on/off switch but you will probably want to use the foot pedal to operate the machine. Plug the foot pedal into the adapter hole on the back of the machine.



Using your Pottery Wheel

While working the wheel, it may be easier to stand. Find a table that will let you work comfortably at the wheel. Be sure the surface is flat.

Place the foot pedal on the floor. Press the pedal with your foot to get a feel for how the machine works.

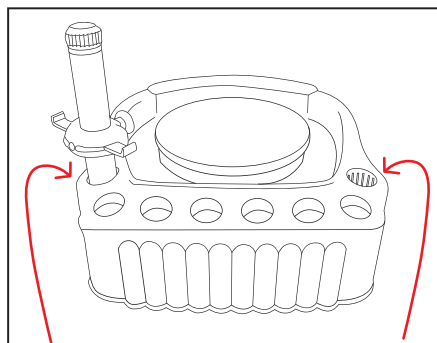


You want to **wedge** your clay on your table cover. Knead it with your hands so that all air bubbles are removed.

Form it into a cylinder or a ball depending on how tall you want your piece to be.

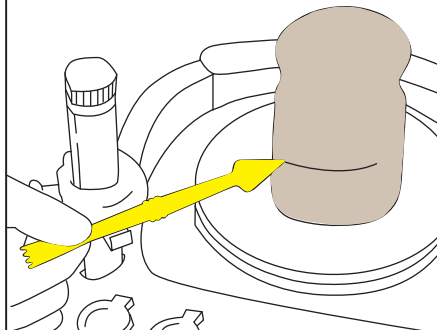


Insert the tool rest into the machine.



Tool rest can go in either of these holes

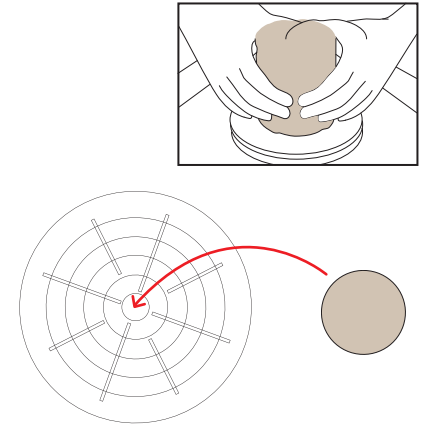
You can place any of the four sculpting tools on the tool rest to add textures and help form your piece while using the pottery wheel.



Using your Pottery Wheel

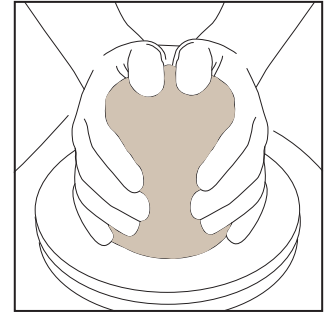
Centering the clay on the wheel -

This is a very important step. Place the clay in the center of the wheel. Centering the clay allows the wheel to spin properly and makes it easier to form a symmetrical pot. Once you get it centered, it's time to start throwing your pot.

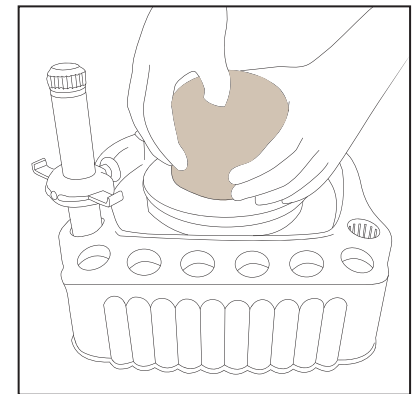


Throwing -

Put a little water on your hands and cup them over your clay. Start the wheel with your foot and press down on the clay with your cupped hands. You will need to experiment with how much pressure to use. Once you feel that your clay is firmly centered on your wheel you can start forming it into the shape you would like.



Push your thumb and fingers into the middle of the pot to form the opening. Keep your hands moistened but not too wet. You can pull your foot up off of the wheel at any time to stop it.



Gently press your fingers or one of the tools against the side of the clay as it spins. This will add texture and shape to the piece. If you want to smooth the clay, use your moistened sponge and gently press it against the clay. To make your vessel taller, use your hands to pull the clay up as it goes around.

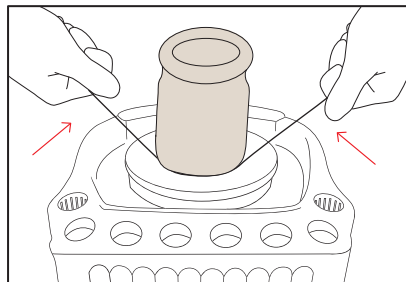
Using your Pottery Wheel

CAUTION: If the clay gets too wet it may come off of the wheel. If this happens, gather up the clay and roll it over paper towels to slightly dry it. Clean off the wheel and then start over. Note: the circular wheel can be removed and cleaned thoroughly if necessary.

You can work the clay as much or as little as you like. When you get a shape you are happy with stop working the clay. Let the piece dry on the wheel for a short while.

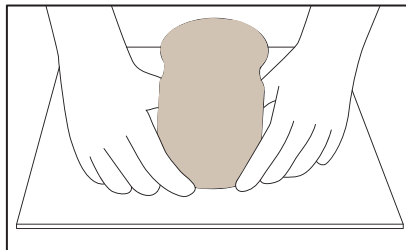
Taking your piece off of the wheel

When your piece is slightly dry you can remove it from the wheel. Grasp the **trimming tool** handles. If the trimming cord seems too long, wrap it around your fingers. Slide the string straight under your piece to loosen it from the wheel.



Slowly pull the trimming tool towards you to loosen your piece.

Pick up your piece and place it on a piece of scrap paper or cardboard.



Before your piece dries completely you can add texture or designs with your clay tools or things you find around the house (textured fabrics, coins, toothpick, paper clip, etc.)

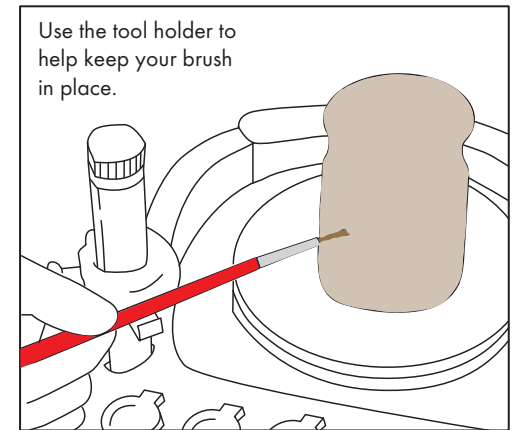
Please note: Before moving on to the next step, your creations will need to air-dry overnight.

Painting Your Piece

When your piece is completely dry it's ready to paint. You can use your white paint as a base paint or you can paint directly onto the clay. You have two kinds of paint. One set will give you a more opaque, solid color, the other will give you a more translucent, glazed look. The glaze paint will look more like traditional kiln-fired pottery. This paint works best on top of a white base coat.

Painting with the Pottery Wheel

Once your piece is dry and you have cleaned off your wheel you can use your pottery wheel to help paint your piece. Place your clay piece on the center of the wheel and add paint to your brush. Hold the brush in the tool holder and place up against your clay piece. Rotate the wheel with the foot pedal and drag the brush onto the clay piece to get a perfect line around your piece.



Rest paint brush or one of the tools on the tool rest.

Move the brush down the piece to create a spiral effect.

When your clay is completely dry, find a special place to display your work of art. Remember, the clay is fragile, so treat it with care. This clay is for **decorative purposes only**, and should not be used with food or beverages.

