

HANDBUILDING TECHNIQUES - PINCH

Technical Tips And
Product Information

#28

- Form a cricket ball sized piece of moist clay.
- Cut it in half with a cutting wire or piece of fishing line.
- Place one half in the palm of your hand, and then gently press your thumb into the centre of the ball (stop 1cm short of going through the base).
- Keeping your thumb inside the ½ ball, gently push your thumb against your fingers which are on the outside of the ½ ball (again, make the walls no more than 1cm short of the outer edge of the ½ ball).
- Keep turning the ½ ball and pinching until the form is a perfect ½ sphere (hollow) with little evidence of your finger pinch marks. Don't make the rim too thin! It should be the same thickness as the walls.
- Do exactly the same with the other ½ ball – now you have 2 x ½ spheres and these can be joined together to form a full sphere if you wish to make forms other than small bowls.
- Apply a small amount of water to the rim of each sphere, then scratch up the surface to form a sloppy glue-like mix (slurry or slip).
- Firmly press the two ½ spheres together and gently press the outer edges of the two forms together. If the edges don't meet up neatly, add a coil of very soft clay and smooth over the join until it disappears.
- Pierce a small (5mm diameter) hole through one end of the complete sphere shape to allow air to escape during firing. You can add some modelled details to your pinch pot to turn it into a variety of forms (character head, cartoon figure, organic rock/pod forms etc.). Dry the form very slowly over 2 weeks inside a plastic bag.
- Fire enclosed shapes like this slowly because they take longer for the heat to permeate the sphere shape and may 'pop' apart if fired too quickly.

RECOMMENDED CLAY FOR THIS ACTIVITY

Beginners: PS2000 Terracotta, PS3010 Stoneware, WEB White Earthenware.

Experienced: PS4080 Fine White Earthenware, PS5000 White Midfire.