

HANDBUILDING TECHNIQUES - SOLID MODELLING

Technical Tips And
Product Information

#32

- Starting with a fresh block of clay, use a cutting wire to cut off a 'chunk' about the size of your intended piece.
- Using modelling tools and wire loop tools to sculpt the form in the solid lump of clay (head, torso, animal etc.)
- Once you have completed the form, leave it uncovered overnight to firm up. Then, slice it in half with a cutting wire and remove the excess clay inside the form with a wire loop tool. No remaining part should be thicker than 1cm.
- Scratch/score the joins and apply some clay slip/slurry (mashed up clay and water to toothpaste consistency). Press together firmly and run a coil of moist clay down the join to fill any gaps. Tidy up the detail in the join area when leather hard and then place the piece in a plastic bag for 2 weeks. Dry slowly!
- If your form does not have an open base, you will have to pierce at least one 5mm diameter hole in the base of the piece before drying to allow air to escape during firing.
- Note: using coarse hand building clay is the best way to ensure that your form will survive firing. Whilst coarse clay will not give as precise detail as fine clay would, the fine clay will be less tolerant of fast firing if it is too thick.

RECOMMENDED CLAY FOR THIS ACTIVITY

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

Experienced: PS4080 Fine White Earthenware, PS5000 White Midfire.