

Ceramics

Centering & Throwing III 10

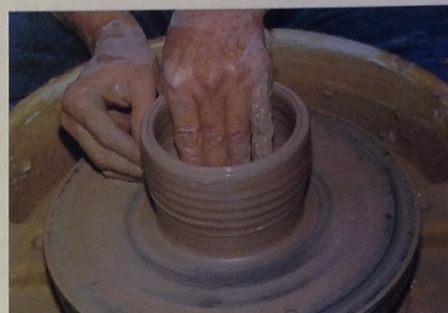
Throwing a Bowl



Center ball of clay on wheel (see steps 1-4 on Poster #8). With arms braced and thumbs together, press gently into the clay at the center. If the clay is properly centered, your thumbs will automatically find the center.



Using a sponge, drip a little water into the depression you have made. With arms and hands still braced, push thumbs to approximately 1/4 inch from the bottom of the clay. Pull your hands out and up to create the rounded shape of the bottom.



Hold your hands still until the wheel makes at least one complete revolution. With your hands at 4 o'clock, use your fingertips to gently squeeze, lift, and shape the clay outward. Remember to push from the inside and support from the outside.



If top is uneven, trim carefully with needle tool. Brace the tool against your thumb and enter the clay slowly at an angle, allowing the wheel to make a complete revolution.



Remove trimmed clay quickly with your inside hand.



Use a chamois to smooth the top edge of the bowl before the final shaping, while the clay edge is thick and still strong.



Finish shaping.



Remember to always keep your hands in place until the clay makes a complete revolution.



Trim the bottom using a wooden trimming tool. Hold the tool with the flat side against the clay.



Remove the trimmed clay.



Press a taut wire with your thumbs against the bat and pull toward you to cut the bowl from the bat. The wheel should be moving very slowly.



A well-thrown bowl has uniform thickness from top to bottom.