

Ceramics

Coil Building I

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Dale Rice-Sabbey, Bloomington, PA, Cone 05



Rima Vagstad, Champaign, IL, High fire • Versabody, Cone 016



Series photos, Spruce Creek High School, Port Orange, FL, Tim Ludwig, Art Teacher

Roll out a slab of clay and use a template to cut the circle for the base. It should be approximately 1/2-inch thick.

◀ Top row (left to right): Cellulose sponge, silk sponge, chamois. Bottom row (left to right): elephant ear sponge, sheep wool sponge



Take a piece of clay and shape it into a fat sausage.



Using your hands, begin rolling out the coil lengths. The clay must be soft and pliable or the coils will crack when bent in a curve.



Roll the clay with your palms and outstretched fingers, moving your hands slowly apart to the opposite ends of the lengthening coil. Coils do not have to be perfectly round. The diameter of the coil should be 1/2-inch to 3/4-inch. Make only a few coils at a time to prevent them from drying out.



Use a banding wheel to construct your pot. Score and slip the outside of base using vinegar. Press the clay coil on the wet scored edge. It is easier to control the shape if you only do one layer at a time. When joining the coil ends, lay them over each other and cut through both at an angle. This provides a large surface to score, slip, and join.



Using your fingers, pull down the edge of the coil on the inside of the pot. This process creates strong joints between the coils.



Repeat this process on the outside of the pot also.



Smooth the outside of the pot using a finishing rib or scraper.