

# Ceramics Slab Construction I

5



Texturing ideas:  
wooden rollers,  
stamps (rubber,  
metal, clay, plaster),  
clay coils rolled  
over textured sur-  
faces and fired, and  
pie crust trimmer.



Sketch a design of the piece you wish to create. We are using a straight-edged, geometric vase as an example. Cut and construct a posterboard (pasteboard or newspaper) model of the vase and number the separate parts to use for templates.

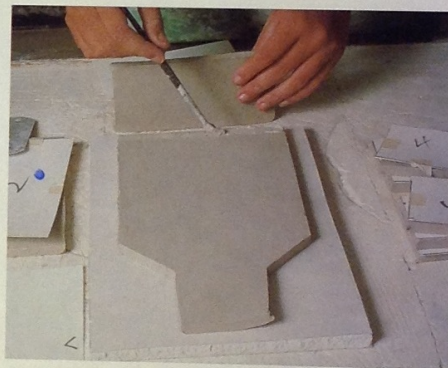
Roll out the slab to approximately 1/4-inch with a rolling pin using guide sticks to assure even thickness. If available, use a slab roller. Work on plasterboard (sheet rock, drywall board) to keep the slabs flat and to absorb the moisture in the clay. If these are not available, use a bat or board covered in sturdy canvas.



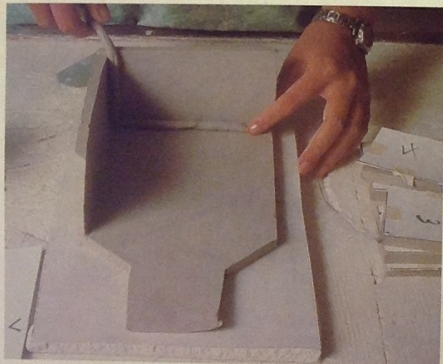
Place the templates on the slab with the numbered side up. Allow slabs to dry enough so that they are firm enough to handle, but still flexible and moist enough to attach.



Using a ceramic needle or fettling knife, cut out all the individual pieces. All should be cut at the same time to assure even drying. Keep the numbered templates on the clay.



Lay one of the large sides of the vase on a piece of plasterboard. You will be working on the construction as if the vase is lying on its larger side. Score the top and bottom edge.



Take the piece that will be the bottom (#1) and score the edge.



Using vinegar or slip, attach the bottom to the side.



Score the vertical and horizontal edges, apply vinegar and slip, and attach the side (#2) to the pieces.