**BASIC CERAMIC SKILLS VIDEOS**

WEEK 2

**Clay preparation**

How to knead and wedge clay. The video demonstrates two alternative ways to prepare clay by generally homogenising it and removing air pockets. Good practical advice.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAOPlz3Bkgs&feature=related>

**Rolling out a clay slab**

How to roll out a slab. Note that reference is made to rolling out the clay on canvas. This stops the clay sticking to the bench. You don’t need a canvas covered bench, a large rectangle of canvas will serve just as well. It is worth noting that many potters place a rectangular cross-sectioned stick on either side on the clay to serve as a thickness gauge. When the rolling pin starts to run on the sticks, then the clay is at the thickness of those sticks.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12Q2z61azPg>

**Basic slab building pt 1**

How to make the walls of a rectangular form. Straight-forward advice. Don’t be put off by the references to a “vase”. Just think of it as a rectangular form. The use of a template is good, it helps to make sure all the sides fit together and can be used many times over.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-dIdKI-exI&feature=relmfu>

**Basic slab building pt 2**

How to join the walls of a rectangular form. As the demonstrator mentions in the previous video, the clay needs to be in a leather-hard state, otherwise it will be too floppy to handle with ease.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbcsdK0dVuU&feature=relmfu>

**Basic slab building pt 3**

How to add a base (or top) to a rectangular form. A short and straight-forward video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&v=gkuXqVB53D0&NR=1>

WEEK 3

**Making coils**

Rolling clay by hand to form coils. It is suggested that students learn to roll coils by hand as it has clear benefits in terms of skills development. The use of an extruder as mentioned in the video can come later, if necessary.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLLB-Kh_XQA>

**Making a base**

A quick way to make a base for a coil pot (first 30 seconds of the video). Trimming off the surplus can be tricky, try bracing the hands and tucking elbows against the body. The rest of the video can be ignored if wished.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8T4bsH8XQv4>

**Coil building the walls**

Raising the walls.The demonstrator uses a long coil spiralling up on top of itself to begin building the wall. Some people prefer to raise the pot one coil ‘hoop’ at a time, as in the next video below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cPuXbqYNlY&feature=relmfu>

**Use of a card template as a guide**

Use of a card template as a guide.In this stop-motion video, notice the use of a card template to check for accuracy of form. The template is a negative of the form, not a positive. It is worth noting too that although the person here is not building his pot on a whirler, he is nevertheless constantly turning it to view it from all sides.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50T62CD3KdE&feature=related>

WEEK 5

**Basic throwing:**

An excellent video that shows the basics of throwing on the wheel. Bernard Leach’s grandson Simon shows how to make a cylinder, step by step. This is a superb piece of video instruction.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU-VE1wnRGw&feature=relmfu>

**Centring:**

How to tap centre a pot for trimming. Simon Leach demonstrates how to centre a pot on the wheel. Although he demonstrates using a fired pot, centring is done on pots to turn the base before any firing takes place. Centring, of course, is also necessary when decorating pots on a banding wheel/whirler and this is also mention in this video clip.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08dtfqjkfQI>

**Trimming:**

Finishing a pot before firing. Simon Leach again, tap centres a pot then demonstrates to turning or trimming.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6MzlJ89pKE>

WEEK 7

**Casting:**

Slipcasting on an industrial scale, but gives a good overview of the process:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1YCRs6QtEY&feature=related>

Slipcasting from a one-piece mould:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-mdLkOg4ss&list=UUbyjzowofwGxnmDJYCCR8_g&index=3&feature=plcp>

Slipcasting from a two-piece mould:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zgXyXXQcL8&feature=related>