



From a Slab of Clay



Daryl E. Baird

Demonstration 9: Using Templates: Pitcher

TOOLS & MATERIALS

Small 1x4-in. block of wood with one end cut at a 45° angle, pencil, needle tool, fettling knife, rolling pin, serrated rib, small sponge, marking pen, X-Acto knife, poster board.

Both the dish and the pitcher are truncated cones, or simply cones with their points cut off. Templates are the best way to make several items the same size and shape, but finding the size you want is best done by trial and error.



1. For a 10-in. tall pitcher, secure template material to a piece of drywall. Using a string and pencil, draw an arc with a 24-in. radius and a second arc with an 13½-in. radius.



2. Mark the center of the arcs and draw a centerline for reference. Next, stretch the string taut and mark both arcs 15° to either side of the centerline.



3. Creating a cardboard mockup can give you an idea of how your form will look before you commit it to clay.



4. Cut out the template then transfer the design to roofing felt but add ¼ inch to ¾ inch on one edge to allow for overlapping at the seam.

Demonstrations



5. Roll out a slab of clay and lay the template on it. Use a needle tool to cut out the shape.



6. Apply slip to one edge and form the clay into a cone. Join the edges with equal overlap from top to bottom then smooth it with your fingers.



7. Cut out a small disk to use for the base. Wipe the excess slip away with a small brush.



8. Form the spout directly opposite the seam. Use a sponge and water to moisten the clay in this area afterward.



9. Cut a 10-in. long thin strip of clay for the pitcher's handle. Taper the edges with the pony roller and allow it to stiffen slightly.



10. Score and slip across the center of the beak where the handle will be attached, then press the top of the handle into place.

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11. Check again for alignment then press the bottom of the handle into place. Smooth both joints and remove excess slip with a brush.



12. Prop the handle with a cardboard tube and a ruler until its shape is set.



The completed pitcher. Edges were rounded during construction using a notched wood tool then a leaf appliqué was added as decoration.