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Workshop from Home with Liz Pechacek Resources for August 9, 2023

- Liz Pechacek has an 800-sq ft studio in her walkout basement.
- Liz uses Standard Clay Company's (Pittsburgh) cone 6 porcelain and dark stoneware clays.
- She bisque fires to cone 06 and glaze fires in an electric kiln to cone 6 in oxidation.
- Liz primarily uses the coil-pinch method, slab builds with textured pony rollers, hump and slump molds, and uses a banding wheel and treadle wheel for fine-tuning forms and creating feet.
- Her slabs are ¼ inch thick.
- 2–3 pounds of clay are used per slab.

Liz's Material & Tool List

1. Fan brush (I like the [Dynasty Faux Squirrel brand](#), available at Dick Blick)
2. Round Chinese calligraphy brush
3. Needle tool with brush taped to the other end
4. X-Acto knife
5. Fettling Knife
6. Tape measure
7. 2-foot drywall sections with taped edges
8. Long strips of plastic cut from bags
9. Various ribs
10. MudTools Sponges
11. Rasp tool (I use the [Sherrill Mud Shredder](#))

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12. R3 U-shape Hand Held clay extruder from [DiamondCore Tools](#)
13. [Jade rollers](#) on Amazon
14. [Apoxie Putty](#)
15. [Kintsugi Reference](#)
16. Shrink wrap was purchased from Target
17. [Diamond Core tools Sticky Bat](#)
18. [Diamond Core tools Sticky Pad](#)
19. Mentioned in the webinar the [Sunshine Stick](#) by Sunshine Cobb

Liz's Building Techniques

Coil/Pinch Method for Mugs

1. Start with a hamburger patty of clay.
2. Thin the middle while leaving a thick ring around the outside edge.
3. Lay the piece on your bat and pinch up the thick sides.
4. Work the thicker area in the middle toward the edges in a radial fashion.
5. Smooth and pinch the sides up again.
6. Even everything out, clean up, and compress the floor with a sponge.
7. Pinch the wall upward using both hands and slightly squeezing the clay together as you pinch.
 - a. At this point, if you want the sides to bow out like a bowl, don't squeeze together, but instead pull apart slightly.
8. Once properly refined, wrap rim in a strip of plastic.
9. After the piece has firmed up, trim up the bottom edge with the mud shredder, metal rib, rubber rib, and sponge.
10. Pinch plastic covered rim to a point.
11. Roll coil, uncover rim, and position coil right on the tip of the pinched point.
 - a. Add a brush of water if the piece seems a little dry to the touch.
12. Connect the ends of the coil together smoothly.
13. Push clay down the wall on the inside using your thumbs to create a scallop pattern and supporting the outside wall with the other four fingers of your hand.
14. Smooth the scallop pattern fully into the wall with a sweeping motion. Clean up with sponge if needed.
15. Adjust the wall by pinching inward if it's bowed out a lot from the inner adjustment.
16. Push the clay downward on the outside of the wall with your finger or thumb while supporting on the inside with the other hand. Swipe the clay in both directions, then smooth with the rib and sponge.
17. Pinch upward and cover the rim again if you want to make the vessel higher by adding more coils.
18. Roll and flatten a coil for the handle.
19. Cut it to approximately handle length and plant the ends on your work bench.
20. Pinch, model, cut, and smooth until it looks pretty good.

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21. Slip, score, and attach the handle to the mug when the rim is firm enough to not distort.
22. Cover with plastic overnight and slowly dry if using porcelain.

Slab/Coil Method for Large Vessels

1. Make a hump mold with Saran wrap and IKEA bowl (or other found bowl).
2. Use the bisqued hump mold to make the bottom of the vase form
 - a. Cut a slab, then compress with a rib to smooth out any textures.
 - b. Use a rib and pony roller to conform the slab to the hump mold.
 - c. Cut the edge of the slab.
 - d. Texturize with a textured pony roller, fingers, or other desired textures.
3. Use DiamondCore Tools hand-held extruder to extrude a foot.
4. Attach the foot, flip, and wrap the rim of the pot.
5. Construct the rim on the hump mold for the top of the vase form.
 - a. Cut out a circle for the mouth of the vase.
 - b. Add a coil for the neck, and shape it as desired.
 - c. Wrap the neck with plastic wrap to slow drying.
6. Add a coil to the bottom of the vase.
7. Attach the bottom piece to the top piece, finishing both the inside and outside of the pot.

Liz Pechacek's Recipes

Translucent Porcelain Engobe (From Val Cushing): Cone 6

Ferro Frit 3134	12%
Minspar 200	28
Grolleg Kaolin	25
6 Tile Kaolin	25
<u>Silica</u>	<u>10</u>
	100%

Add:

Enough water to make it like pudding
Amaco Gum Solution (a splash)

Note: It can be dehydrated and molded as a clay as well. I mix up a 10,000 gram batch and scoop it out and color it as I need it—this way I can also color it and spread it on plaster if I want a bit of colored porcelain to play with.

Linen White Glaze Cone 6

Wollastonite	20%
Ferro Frit 3134	20
Custer Feldspar	20
EPK Kaolin	20
<u>Silica</u>	<u>20</u>
	100%

Add:

Zircopax 10%
Amaco Gum Solution (a splash)

Note: Linen White glaze is a good, solid white glaze. It's milky-clear without the zircopax. I mix up 10,000 grams and dole some out into little lidded containers, then add colorant as needed.

Links from Liz Pechacek:

<https://instagram.com/lizpechacek>

<https://ceramicartsnetwork.org>

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<https://www.facebook.com/lizpechacek>
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