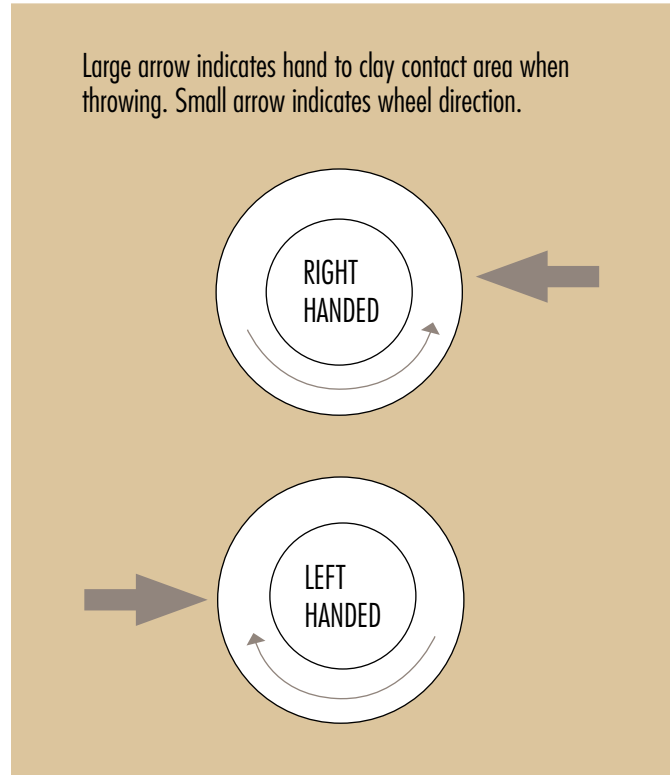


Throwing on the Wheel

by Jake Allee

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

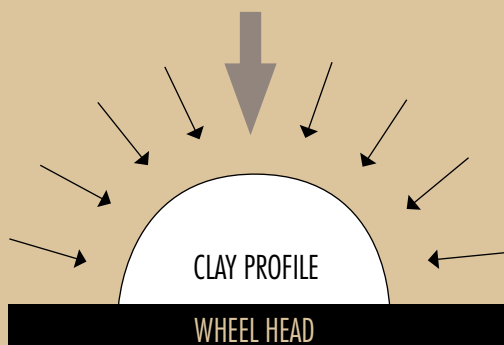
- Always apply and release pressure to the clay slowly.
- Never allow water to collect in the bottom of the piece.
- Slow the wheel down in each step of the process.
- Be persistent in your efforts.



CENTERING THE CLAY

- Start with a well wedged ball of clay that's no larger than the size of your hands.
- Anchor your elbows to your knees for stability.
- Wet your hands and the clay.
- Slowly apply downward pressure equally to all sides of the clay until no movement exists within the mass.
- When the clay is "centered," it will be spinning while your hands remain still.
- Once the clay is centered, relax and slowly pull your hands away.

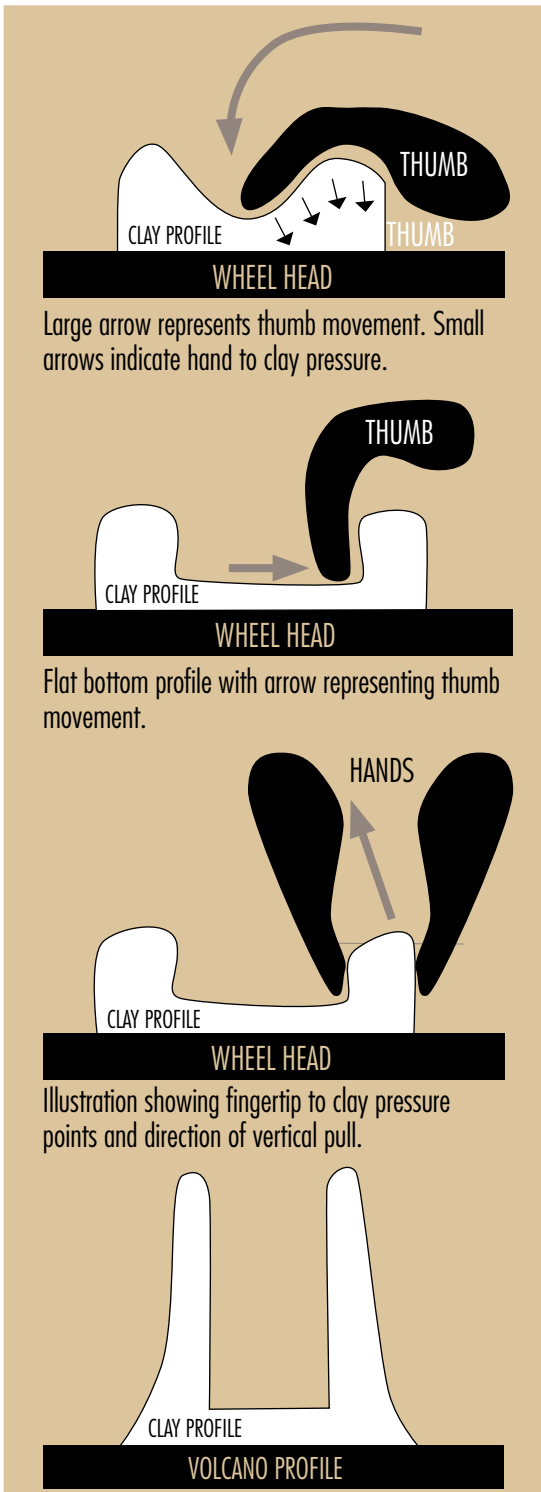
Diagram illustrating hand to clay pressure.





OPENING UP THE CLAY

- Place the tip of your thumb in the center of the clay mass.
- Slowly roll your thumb into the center of the clay maintaining pressure on the clay profile.
- Stop ½ inch from the wheel head.
- To create a flat bottom, use the same hand position and pull straight back toward yourself.
- Any movement causing the piece to go out of "center" is reflected in the rest of the piece.



MAKING A PULL

- From this point on, manipulate the piece only at the 3 o'clock position relative to the wheel head (9 o'clock if left handed).
- Slowly apply and release pressure.
- Always use your fingertips when making a vertical pull and slow the wheel down.
- Position your inside finger slightly above the outside finger and apply pressure with the outside finger slowly moving your hands upward.
- When making a vertical pull, pull the clay inward to create the volcano shape.
- Repeat the pulling process until the wall is uniform in thickness from top to bottom.

