

ays to Build with Clay

Pinch · Coil · Slab

- PINCH POT — Roll a ball of clay. Push your thumb into the center. Pinch the walls between thumb and finger, turning slowly. Build the height by pinching outwards. Best for: small bowls, mugs, simple sculptures.
- COIL — Roll long sausages of clay (coils). Stack them in a circle on a base, joining each coil to the one below by smoothing the joins. Build the wall higher and higher. Best for: vases, pots, taller forms.
- SLAB — Roll a flat 'pancake' of clay (the slab) using a rolling pin. Cut shapes from the slab with a knife or template. Join slabs together with slip (clay watered down) to build boxes or buildings. Best for: tiles, boxes, animals with flat sides.
- BLEND — Most real artists combine the three. A coil pot might have a slab base; a pinch sculpture might have slab decorations.
- JOINING — Whatever method, when joining two pieces of clay always 'score and slip': scratch both surfaces with a needle and add a little watered-down clay (slip) to glue them together.

