

# Handout - Throwing

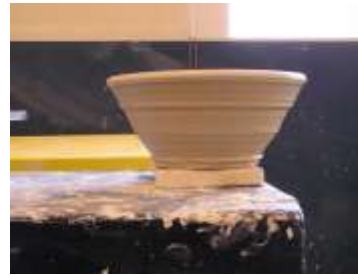
Throwing will require you to use muscles that you may not normally use.

## Take This



Un-wedged clay

## Make This



Thrown but un-trimmed bowl

## Read

**Preparation & Tools:** Wedge two balls of clay about the size of a baseball (hardball). The tools you need for throwing are: water bucket with water, needle tool, small sponge, black rib and wooden sculpting tool. (Later on you will need a wire tool and lifters)



Wedging



Tools and 2 balls of wedged clay sitting on a wheel

**Selecting a Wheel:** There are two types of wheels in the classroom with two different types of switches. Wheels with a toggle switch only turn in a counterclockwise direction and should be used by right handed students. These wheels are turned on by switching the toggle on the side of the machine. Wheels with the flat panel switches can easily reverse direction and can be used by both right and left-handed student. Turning on the flat panel wheel requires pressing the button to the left of the word "brent". After turning the wheel on, change the direction it spins by pressing the button to the right of "brent." **Wheels should always be turning away from your dominant hand.**



**Toggle – Right-Handed only**



**Flat panel - Right or Left-Handed**



**Counterclockwise for Right-Handed**



**Clockwise for Left-Handed**

**Set up:** Set-up for throwing is very important. Set-up has to do with where the chair is, how to sit, where the arms are held and how the legs are placed on the ground.

**No**



**Chair is too far from wheel**

**No**

**Yes**



**Chair is next to wheel**

**Yes**



**Body is too far from wheel**

**No**



**Body is close to the wheel**

**Yes**



**Legs are pointing back or forward**



**Legs are straight down**

**No**



**Arms are in the air**

**No**



**Elbows are close to stomach**

**Yes**



**Arms are resting on your legs**

**Yes**



**Elbows are across from the clay ball**

Throw the wedged ball of clay onto the wheel head. If the wheel head is dry, put a tiny bit of water on the clay ball before throwing it down. After removing the first thrown piece, do not add water to the second ball of clay or it may not stick to the wheel head.



**Throwing the ball onto the wheel head**

**Pressure:** Once the clay is stuck to the wheel head, begin pushing it up and down to get it in the center. That pushing must be done with slow, constant pressure. **Never "UMPH" on the clay.** All pressure must be slow and steady.



**Not fast like these people but slow like .....**



**Meditation – slow even pressure – slow from top to bottom – slow slow slow slow....**



**Centering:** pushing clay to the middle – up and down.



**Cleaning:** Use a wooden sculpting tool to get the extra clay from the bottom of the piece of clay you are centering.



**Making the hole:** Using thumbs push a hole in the center of the centered piece of clay. Use the fingers of your dominant hand to push the hole deeper.



**Measuring:** The thickness of the bottom of the piece should be about **3/8"** thick.



**Opening up the pot  
creating the bottom**



**The pass – pulling the clay up in the air –  
Making the Walls**



**More passing – more walls**



**Shaping the bowl – using the black rib**



**Finishing the lip  
using the sponge  
to smooth the top**

**Drying off excess  
water**

**Preparing to  
remove the pot  
from the wheel**

**Cutting a groove  
in the base of  
the bowl**



**Water on the wheel head, then using the wire tool to cut under the bowl**



**Removing bowl from wheel head:** After cutting under the bowl with the wire tool, use the lifters to remove it from the wheel head. Slide the lifters under the bowl. Keep them flat on the wheel head. Only go under the edge by a ½". Wiggle the lifter then lift the bowl and put it on a project board. Remove the lifters. You may need to put your finger on the bottom of the bowl to keep it from moving. The ceramics piece must be leather hard before trimming. It will dry faster if left in the sun. If you are not planning on trimming your bowl that day cover it plastic.

You will be encouraged to break the first piece thrown. During the passing process you will be asked to keep making the walls thinner until they break. This will teach you the limits of passing. After practicing with wedged clay, use new clay to throw the pieces you will keep.

## Cleaning up

The first couple of times you clean up it will take you about 20 minutes. The more you do it the faster it will go.

### Steps to cleaning up:

**First:** Find all the extra clay on your wheel that you can pick up with your hand and put it in the recycle bin.



**Second:** Take all your tools and put them in the blue bucket. Then take the tools and blue bucket to the sink, wash them with plain water (no soap) and put them away in their proper places.



**Third:** Return to the wheel and remove the splash pan. Position your body in front of the wheel to remove it (the end away from where you sit). The splash pan is the yellow plastic that surrounds the wheel head. This splash pan is removed by pushing the two tabs near the back of the pan down and backwards (push them both at the same time). This motion will remove the back half of the splash pan. Then, remove the front of the splash pan by pulling it gently forward away from the wheel. **Caution – if there is a lot of water in the splash pan – remove that water before you begin to remove the pan. The best way to remove water is by using a sponge to soak up the water and then squeezing the water into the blue bucket.**



**Forth:** When the splash pan is removed you need to take it to the sink and clean it using plain water. Clean it until it is yellow with no clay.



**Fifth:** Take a big sponge and wipe off the wheel and chair (get rid of all the clay).



**Sixth:** Replace the splash pan. To do this, put the big (outside) part on first. Do this by pointing it down and sliding it under the little rim. When it is in place, put the back on by sliding it under the front.



**Seventh:** Put the chair back on the wheel (upside down) and the bucket and peddle on the front of the wheel.



**Next time it will be easier.**

**Watch** – the Video.

**Do** – This is when students put what they have learned into action.