

Making a Beaker folk clay coil pot

Equipment

- clay
- clay tools
- tools such as pen tops, screws and pencils
- 5 cm round cutter
- pot of water (200 ml)
- clay board

Method

- 1 Mix a pinch of clay into the pot of water to make a runny 'slip'.
- 2 Squeeze a plum-sized ball of clay in your hands until it is warm and soft.
- 3 Roll out the clay to a thickness of 1 cm and use the cutter to cut out a circle. This will be the base of the pot.
- 4 Squeeze and roll another ball of clay into a sausage shape about the width of your thumb.
- 5 Make scratch marks all around the edge of the base with a clay tool and rub a little slip over the scratch marks.
- 6 Add scratch marks and slip all along the bottom of the rolled clay. These scratch marks will help the rolled clay stick to the base.
- 7 Press the rolled clay around the edge of the base to make the first coil. Cut off any spare clay.
- 8 Use a little slip to smooth and seal the joins between the coil and the base.
- 9 Continue to add coils, squeezing and rolling more balls of clay, as necessary. To widen the pot, stick a new coil to the outside edge of the previous one. To narrow the pot, stick a new coil to the inside edge of the previous one. Remember to use scratch marks and slip to join the coils and more slip to smooth and seal any joins.
- 10 When the pot is finished, create repeated patterns, using the tools, in the style of Beaker pottery.

