

Pinch Pot Basics

1. Pat your clay into a nice round ball. Start with a piece about the size of a large egg. Bigger or smaller is fine, depending on what you want to make.



2. Stick your thumb into the center of the ball making a hole $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way deep



3. Gently pinch the walls using middle and pointer fingers together (on the outside) and your thumb (on the inside). Move around the perimeter slowly and steadily.



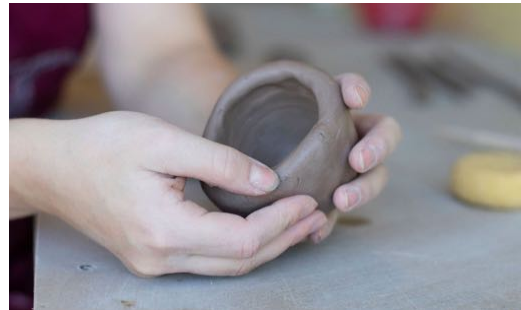
4. Don't rush. The goal is not as big/thin as you can as fast as you can. It should take 4+ full rotations to reach full size. Keep it cupped in your hands as you rotate/pinch.



5. Continue pinching as you rotate until the walls are even & the shape you want it.



6. Between each full rotation, smooth out cracks on the side and the rim, also gently even out any thick spots. Now you're ready to embellish and decorate!



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A few common issues with pinch pots:



A few examples of what you can make.
Notice that the pot opening can be rotated in
all directions to have different uses.

More complicated is a bubble base (two
pots sealed together), but it can
become a body, a jar, a candle
holder, etc.

Try Making:

- A Small bowl or cup
- Nesting bowls
- Sponge holder
- Soap dish
- All sorts of animals
- Monster Pots

Basic Tips for Success

How to attach clay to clay, and have it stay on.

1. Attach any clay handles/appendages/etc. when the clay is still wet (not stiff).
2. Attach clay of similar dampness (i.e. not wet clay with dry clay)
3. *Thoroughly* scratch both sides that are meant to be attached. See the image below. The left spot is NOT scratched enough. The middle spot is STILL NOT enough. The right spot is just right. Think of your clay like two rocks with a smooth face. You need to rough up the surface so they can lock together like Velcro or puzzle pieces.
4. Gently add clay slip so it does not smooth out your rough scratches. Firmly and thoroughly press together the parts being attached. Repeat with other parts.



Rule of Thumb: Use Your thumb!

1. Long skinny spikes/tentacles/appendages will easily break off.
2. If it sticks straight out, make it shorter than your thumb and just thick or thicker.
3. If it needs to be longer or thinner than your thumb, it should be scratched and slipped thoroughly, and it should wrap around the piece. See example:

