

Tips en tricks for Pottery Forms



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Some tips en tricks for working
with

Pottery Forms of
Pottery Forms Europe

For more information
www.potteryformseurope.com



Combining the forms

Some of our forms are stack-able.

Mostly know are the forms that we also sell as a stack

- Round
- Square
- Hexagon
- Rounded rectangle

But it goes beyond these combinations. For instance the small square 3,5 inch fits perfectly in the rectangle 5 x 10,5 inch

Or the rectangle 6.5 x 11 inch and the 8 x 13 inch can also be stacked.
The combination possibilities are endless.

A beautiful edge 1

Are you facing some problems with the edges of your plates? Do you not succeed in making your plate perfectly round or straight?

There are several solutions for this problem. First of all and the most easy one is to use our rim templates. They will give your plate a unique design, but there are more solutions possible.

- Cut out a slab of clay in advance, you can you a bigger size of the same form or make a template to cut your clay.
- Make the template approximately +/- 1,2 cm wider than the form to make it fit.
- Place the clay slab on a board
- Position the pottery form upside down in the middle of your clay slab
- Put a new different board on the pottery form
- Turn both boards with the clay and pottery forms at the same time
- Press your clay on the form



A beautiful edge 2



Make a plate or bowl using the normal working methodology, by draping a slab of clay over the pottery form.

Cut down the access clay, but make sure you stay approx 1 cm of the edge of the form. Let your work rest until it is between soft and leather hard. where the clay is firm if you turn the pottery form.

Place the form on a spacer / turntable or small bucket in such a way tat the edge is free.

Use a clay harp or clay needle to cut the access clay.

Start in the middle of the form and work towards the edges, support the edge so it does not brake.

Pay attention keep your clay harp or clay needle straight.

Do not use a clay knife for it might damage your pottery form.

A beautiful edge 3



Make a plate or bowl using the normal working methodology, by draping a slab of clay over the pottery form.

Cut down the axcess clay, make sure you are not to far on the edge of the pottery form.

Let your work rest until it is in the leather hard stage, **remove the pottery form.** It shows where the edge of the pottery form was. You can use a surform to remove all excess clay.

Crooked feet or ring



Are you having problems with making straight lines for feet or rings. The solution is often more easy than you think.

The first advise is to use our foot maker. This tool helps you to make equivalent strips of clay. This way all strips have the same size and all your plates look alike.



If the clay strips deform when you attach the foot on the plate, your clay is probably still too wet. Let it dry for a bit and then attach the foot.

Is your foot crooked? You can first try to make it straight by pulling/pressing it down with your fingers. Not succeeding? Take a small slat, put it next to the foot and press the foot against the slat with your index finger.



You can also wait to the leather hard stage. Leave your work on the pottery form, take a small slat, place it on top of your foot and use a trimming tool with a straight edge to trim away the excess clay.

If you are making a round form on a potter's wheel or electric wheel, you can use a sponge to make a good foot ring.



If you did not succeed very well or if the foot rings are different when you are making multiple plates, you can still fix this problem in the leather hard phase of your piece.

Use the inside of the rounding rim to make all foot rings even.

You can also cut the desired shape / design out of an old credit or shopping card.

A rounded edge / lip



If you cut the excess clay of your plate or lip, the edge is often very blunt or straight. What if you desire a soft edge or lip?

This is really super easy. Use the rounding rib to work on the edge of your plate. For this purpose, use the inside of the inner hole to remove the excess clay. Use a sponge (not too wet) for the final touch.



wobbly foot or ring

Even if you pay very well attention it can still happen that you find that the plate wobbles when dry (before bisque firing). How do you fix this?

The cause is often found in the fact that the clay strips used for the foot are not evenly thick. Turn your piece with the pretty site up and the foot / ring downwards. Place it on an unpainted board. Wet the board with a sponge and a little water (not to much). Make circular movements without to much pressure. The structure of the board will act as a sanding paper and makes your foot / ring nice flat and even.

Help! my forms slide

The forms of Pottery Forms Europe are made from a high standard MDF material that is in accordance with all EU and USA regulations for usage in ceramics.

All forms that can be used in combination with each other or with the Wheel Attachment system might slide. Especially on the Electric Wheel when you add to much pressure. This can easily be prevented. Take a sponge and wet the lower side of the top form and top side of the lower form. The water makes that they will 'suck' and it will prevent the sliding.

**For working with clay there is a general rule;
Take your time, do not rush !**

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