

# ColorWorks™

## Ceramic Arts Lesson Plan

### Coil Pot with Foot

Pots have been around for most of recorded time. In fact, pots were used as storyboards to tell about the people in our history. Lots of cultures used hand-rolled strings of clay to make pots. The practice of constructing coil pots have been shared by many cultures for many purposes.



# What You'll Need

## Materials List

### Cone 5-6 Clay

### Duncan® Concepts® Underglazes

- CN 253 Black

### Duncan® Artisan Glazes™

- AG 402 Turquoise Haze
- AG 408 Oyster Shell

### Brushes & Tools

- BR 593 Economy Glaze Brush
- TL 401 Cleanup Tool
- TL 411 Stylus

### Miscellaneous Supplies

- Low-Fire Clay; Buff or White
- Potter's sponge
- Container for water
- Foil or foam plate for palette
- Double-ended rubber tool
- Small rubber rib
- Stamp of choice

## For Best Results

Please read all instructions before beginning project. Refer to photo for color & design placement.

## Tips for Success

- 1) Applique pieces should be pressed firmly when attaching to adhere without air bubbles taking care to not smear the detail.
- 2) It takes a little practice to roll coils, using a forward rolling motion with the hand held straight and using the palms and gentle pressure. Be sure the clay rolls completely over before moving the hand back toward your body.
- 3) You can paddle vase with a wooden paddle/stick to help shape the vase when it is leatherhard.
- 4) Do not end all coils at the same place around the pot as this will create a weak spot in the wall of the vase.

## Vocabulary

- **Applique:** Pieces of clay applied onto a clay surface.
- **Clay:** A firm, fine-grained mixture of minerals from the earth that is flexible when wet and hard when dry.
- **Slip:** Clay mixed with water.
- **Score:** To cut slightly into the clay in a criss-cross pattern with a fork or other sharp object. Used in conjunction with slip to join 2 pieces of clay together.
- **Coil:** A hand method of forming pottery by building up the walls with ropelike rolls of clay and then smoothing over the joints.
- **Rib:** A tool of wood, bone, rubber, or metal that is used to mold and smooth clay.
- **Leatherhard:** The condition of clay pieces when most of the moisture has left the clay body but when it is still soft enough to be carved but not molded.

# Instructions

- 1** Roll clay for oval bottom and rectangular side slab on slab roller.
- 2** Smooth both sides with rubber rib.
- 3** Use cleanup tool to cut circle 4" in diameter.
- 4** Roll 1/2" thick coils and begin building the sides of vase.



- 5** Score and add slip along the top edge of the clay circle. Place a coil on the slip and scored area, pinch off and smooth together ends of coil where the ends meet. Build 3 rows high. Adding 3 coils at a time works best. Each coil must be stacked neatly on the one below. Do not spiral up coils as this tends to make the vase lopsided.

# Instructions Continued ...

- 6 Smooth inside and outside of coils by pushing a small amount of clay from one coil into the coil below. Smooth the coils so they join together. Use a small, flexible, rubber rib to smooth the inside and outside of the vase as you proceed.
- 7 When vase is about 3" tall, stiffen clay and turn the vase upside down.



- 8 Score and add slip to the top edge of the bottom of the vase. Add coils to bottom of vase to make the foot/pedestal. Use the same procedure to smooth the coils together inside and out.
- 9 When foot/pedestal is strong enough to support vase, cut out elongated half moon shapes to create the foot and use the stylus to make the line along the bottom edge of the vase.

# Instructions Continued ...

**10** Turn vase right side up. Continue to add coils to top of vase. Allow clay to stiffen after adding a total of 6 coils. Then continue adding coils. Longer coils will make the shape flare out at the top. The top of the vase should be neatly smoothed. Smooth inside and outside of the vase before drying.

**11** Add a coil around the top edge (lip) of the vase and use the stylus to make the line along the top edge of the vase.



**12** To create applique designs, press out a small amount of clay and stamp with desired design.

**13** Score and add slip to the back of the applique. Then attach it to the outside of the vase. Smooth edges of applique using double-ended rubber tool.

# Instructions Continued ...

- 14 Smooth edges of applique using double-ended rubber tool.
- 15 Bisque fire to cone 04.
- 16 Create a wash with Black by mixing with equal parts of water. Then apply wash to all textured areas using the Economy Glaze brush. Apply wash on and around bottom appliques and coil on foot. Turn the vase upside-down and apply wash to remaining appliques and coil on top edge (lip) of vase.
- 17 Make sure wash gets into recessed areas of appliques and stylus lines of edge coils.



- 18 Using a damp sponge, gently wipe back wash from raised areas of texture allowing Black to show primarily in texture recesses and around appliques. Let dry.

# Last Steps!



**19** Using the Economy Glaze brush, apply 2 coats of Oyster Shell to the entire pot. Let dry.

**20** Using the Economy Glaze brush or sponge, apply 2 coats of Turquoise Haze to coils on lip and foot of pot. Let dry.

**21** Fire to cone 06.

**Duncan**<sup>®</sup>  
CERAMIC ARTS

© 2019 Duncan Ceramics  
5673 E. Shields Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93727

Get inspired at [DuncanCeramics.com](http://DuncanCeramics.com)

## Visual Arts Standards

The relevant National Visual Arts Standards were considered in the design of this lesson plan.