

Handbuilding

Made Easy with Plaster Tools by Creative Paradise, Inc.



*Creative
Paradise,
Inc.*

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The Basics

What are slump, hump and sprig molds you ask? They are plaster forms used to fashion shapes with clay. Plaster forms and tools can be successfully used to create imaginative and unique clay pieces.

Because of the absorbent nature of plaster, clay can be depressed into highly detailed sprig molds and lifted from the mold without sticking. Minute details can successfully be transferred from plaster to clay. The absorbent plaster forms help to assure an even and timely draw of moisture from the clay body, limiting cracks and sticking. Convex plaster forms are known as "hump molds" while concave plaster forms are known as "slump molds."

To select between a hump and a slump mold of the same shape, the artist must decide whether access to the inside surface (available with a slump) or the outside surface (available with a hump) is most important. Hump molds give the advantage of adding feet and handles to the outer surface of the piece. One must be sure to remove drying clay from a hump mold precisely at the leather-hard stage due to potential cracks from shrinkage strain. Slump molds allow the clay piece to dry with a limited risk of cracking because the clay is able to shrink away from the plaster wall.

Selecting a Clay Body

All of the molds listed will work with low-fire and high-fire clay bodies. Many commercial finishes can be used on low-fire and high-fire clay. Experimentation is recommended since colors can vary when fired to different temperatures.

Materials

Here's what you'll need (your investment is minimal):

- Hump, slump, texture and sprig molds from Creative Paradise Mold Company
- Rolling pin or wooden dowels
- Colors
- Work board with fabric or clay canvas
- Imagination
- Sand bag
- Cutting tools
- Variety of items to press into clay
- Your own kiln or access to a studio to fire items.

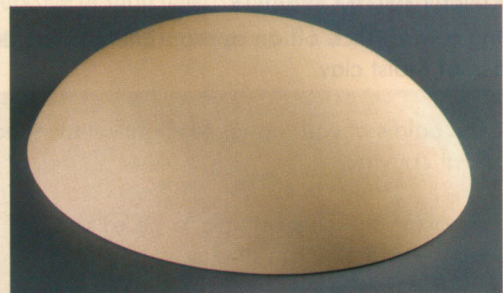
Slump Molds

Slump molds have an area where clay is laid over the top and allowed to "slump" down into an indentation. A large selection of shapes and sizes are available.



Hump Molds

Hump Molds come in a variety of shapes and sizes and are a raised shape where clay can be draped over the top of the form.



Texture Molds

Texture Molds were designed specifically for the purpose of adding texture to clay surfaces. Simply place your rolled sheet of clay on the surface of the texture mold and roll or press leaving the texture pattern.



Sprig Molds

Sprig Molds are small flat molds with a large range of patterns where clay is pressed into the desired design and removed. Excess clay is cut away from around the design. Clay sprigs can be added onto slump or hump designs to create patterns or adornments. Sprig parts can also be fired and used like stamps to create indentations in clay.



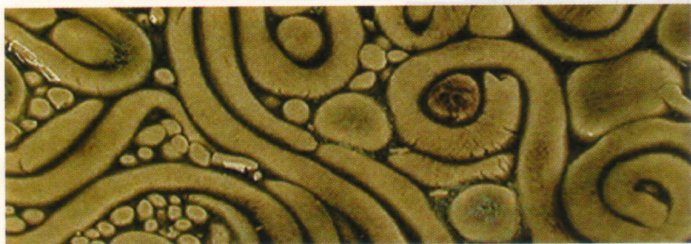
This is Your Opportunity to Get Creative!



With the aid of slump, hump and sprig molds from Creative Paradise, concocting your own formation is simple and gives you the freedom to generate unique, one-of-a-kind pieces utilizing the aid of a basic form. If you have never worked with clay, this could be your opportunity to try something very exciting.

One of the great features about this technique is the fact that you construct an original design that's uniquely yours at your local studio or at home. Whether you are a studio owner, teacher, or individual artist, the possibilities are endless, and the fun is just beginning. You will quickly find how addicting clay can be, and your imagination will run wild with ideas and potential.

Allow the different projects featured to motivate your imagination. Combine any of the ideas, or completely create your own. The variety of options with this creative process is unlimited. Everyone can add his or her own innovative touch.

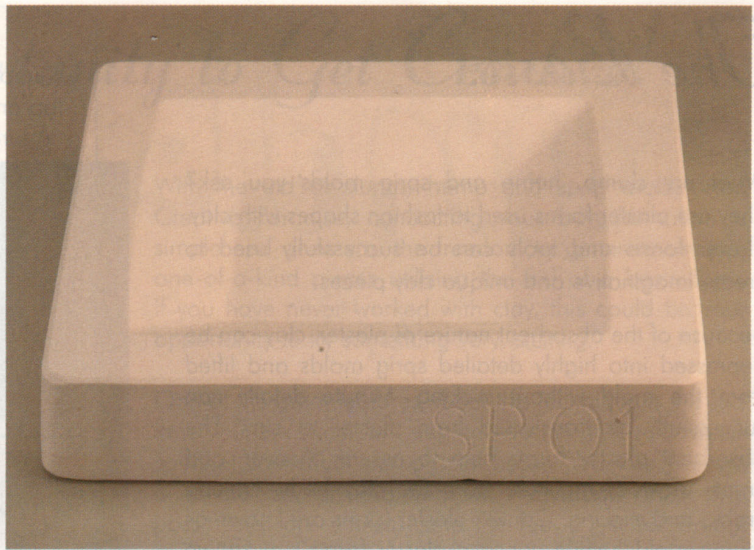
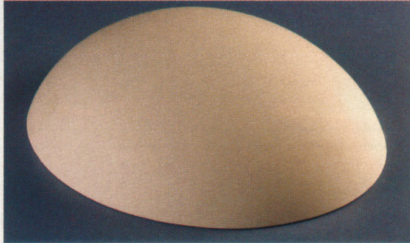


Inspire others by hosting a creative clay party. Hosting a gathering is not limited to just the studio owner. Hump, slump and sprig molds are small and inexpensive so artists can work in the home, schools or a variety of other places.



Photography of Finished Pieces by Suzanne Yurenka

Basic Instructions for Hump, Slump and Sprig Molds



Slump and Hump Molds

Step 1 Using a wire, slice off an appropriate amount of clay from a block of moist clay.

Step 2 Use the palms of your hands to slightly flatten the clay onto a piece of canvas.

Step 3 Begin rolling the clay using a large rolling pin. Press firmly and roll the entire length of clay.

Step 4 Roll twice and turn the clay over. Repeat until the clay is rolled to desired thickness (1/4"-3/8") and size. Compare clay dimensions to plaster form to assure proper coverage.

Step 5 Create any optional impressions, textures or patterns you wish on the clay side that will be facing the plaster surface of the mold.

Step 6 Lift clay from canvas and place onto plaster form.

Step 7 Use a sandbag to pounce the clay into/onto the plaster form. Pounce until smooth.



Note: On occasion you need to create folds in your clay to get them to conform to rounded shapes. Additional pressing with a sandbag may be required to smooth the surface.



Step 8 Use a wooden fettling knife to cut the excess clay.

Step 9 Remove the excess clay and set aside.

Step 10 Use a moist sponge to smooth and clean the edges or other imperfections in the clay surface.



Step 11 Create any texture, patterns, impressions or add sprig designs to the clay surface exposed.

Note: You can also add a coil or "feet" to the bottoms of hump items. Simply roll out balls of clay or a coil, score both sides (scratch lines with a sharp tool), dab on a little slip and press the parts together. Make sure the piece is level by turning the clay (with the mold inside) over and pressing firmly on a flat surface.

Step 12 When the object is leather hard, remove it from the mold and clean the edges with a cleaning tool. Allow to dry completely before firing.



Create unique ridges and lips on creations utilizing hump molds by draping the clay over the mold and cutting the scalloped edge around the excess clay. A foot can be added to keep the bowl level and to prevent it from tipping.

Sprig Molds

Step 1 Place a piece of flattened clay over the design in the sprig mold.



Step 2 Use the bag of sand to pounce the clay into the form.



Step 3 Lift the clay from the form.



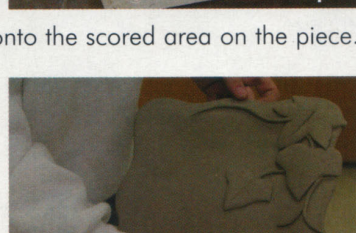
Step 4 Use a cleaning tool to cut the shapes from the clay. Repeat steps 1-4 until you have gathered the desired number of sprig objects.



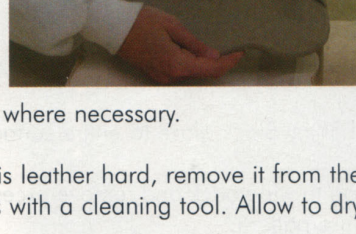
Step 5 Use a moistened sponge to lightly clean edges of your objects.



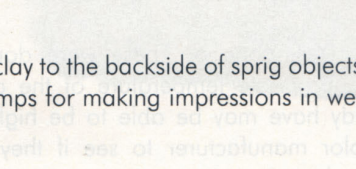
Step 6 After arranging the objects on your hump or slump item, use a cleaning tool to lightly score the area where the sprig objects will attach.



Step 7 Use a cleaning tool to lightly score the back of the sprig objects.



Step 8 Apply a small amount of slip to the back of the sprig item.



Step 9 Depress the sprig onto the scored area on the piece.

Step 10 Create any additional adornments with clay and attach the same way as your sprig items.

Step 11 Gently clean the entire object removing any imperfections with a sponge and cleaning tool where necessary.

Step 12 When the object is leather hard, remove it from the mold and clean the edges with a cleaning tool. Allow to dry completely before firing.

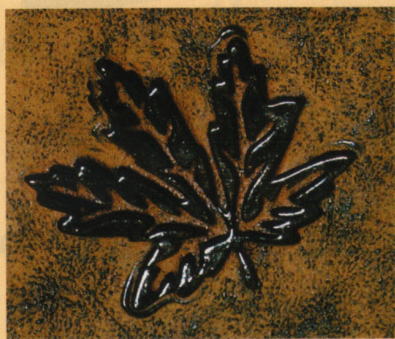
Note: Add a small ball of clay to the backside of sprig objects and fire to create clay stamps for making impressions in wet clay.



Sprig molds can serve multiple purposes. Add a small ball of clay to the backside of sprig objects you've created and fire to create clay stamps for making impressions in wet clay.



Leaf and Wheat Design



Materials Needed

- Creative Paradise Mold SP02 Square Slump
- HDM-5 Egg Shaped Hump
- Foam Leaf Stamps (Available at most craft or home improvement stores)
- Old bath towel
- Small block of wood
- Real Wheat
- Clay of choice
- Mayco S-2121 Shiny Black Gloss Glaze



Note: This particular project was created using Speckled Brownstone Stoneware Clay (#125) from A.R.T. Studio Clay Company. The color of the clay body has a brown cast. You can select from different clay bodies but they will affect the color and final finish of this project.

Square Plate

Step 1 Follow the basic instructions (steps 1-10 on page CP4) for a slump mold.

Step 2 Add background texture to clay using an old bath towel by pressing over the entire surface.

Step 3 Create a textured rock-like edge by bashing a small block of wood repeatedly into the clay while still in the mold.

Step 4 Press selected leaf pattern into clay.

Step 5 Press real wheat around clay edges to create pattern.

Step 6 Allow to dry to leather-hard stage and remove from mold.

Free-form Dish

Step 1 Follow the basic instructions for a hump mold (steps 1-4 on page CP4).

Step 2 After creating your basic shape of clay over your hump mold, remove the clay and use a bath towel to add background texture and foam stamps to make impressions on the side that will face the mold.

Step 3 Drape the clay back over the hump mold and gently pull back some of the clay edges and insert loose paper or sponges to hold the shape until leather hard.

Step 4 Remove from mold and allow to dry.

Tile Coasters

Step 1 Roll out clay and cut out squares. Use an existing tile or create a template with cardboard for uniform size.

Step 2 Press a bath towel over the clay to create the background texture.

Step 3 Repeatedly bash a small block of wood into the edges to create rock-like texture.

Step 4 Press foam stamps into clay to make leaf impressions.

Finishing all Pieces

Step 1 After allowing sufficient drying time, fire to cone 04.

Step 2 Apply one coat of Shiny Black glaze to entire surface and allow to dry.

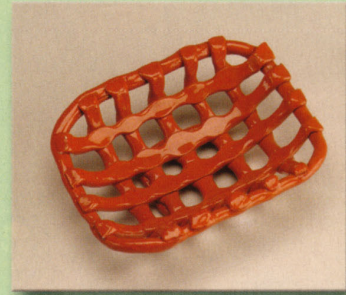
Step 3 Use a damp sponge to wipe back and remove excess glaze so color remains in deep crevices and texture pattern.

Step 4 Fire to cone 6. (Yes, cone 6. These were done with stoneware clay. Fire your items to the appropriate temperature of the clay you have selected.) Many finishes you already have may be able to be high-fired. Check with your dealer, distributor or color manufacturer to see if they have a high-fire chart showing or explaining results.



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Slump Molds



Texture Molds



Sprig Molds



Hump Molds



From the Plaster Experts - Manufacturers of Plaster Molds for Fired Arts

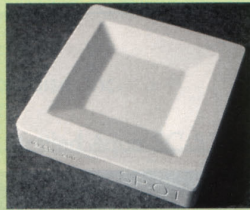
Come to our
OPEN HOUSE
Sat., June 26, 2004
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Demonstrations
and More!

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TX01 Ribbed Texture Mold
8½" x 11"



SP01 Square Slump 8" x 8"



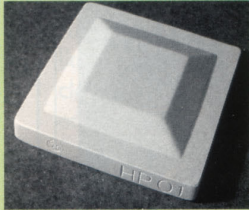
SP02 Square Slump 10" x 10"



SP03 Round Slump
9" Dia x 3¼" Deep



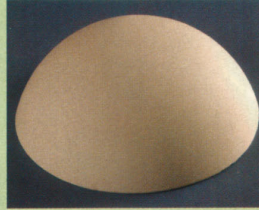
SP04 Oval Slump
17" L x 17" W



HP01 Square Hump
8" x 8"



HP02 Square Hump
10" x 10"



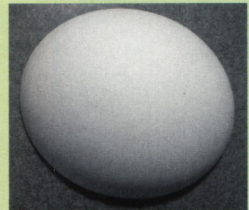
HP03 Round Hump
9" Dia x 3¼" H



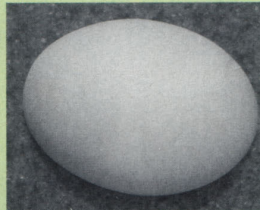
HP04 Oval Hump
9" L x 7¼" W x 4" H



HP05 Oval Hump
13" L x 10¼" W x 5" H



HP06 Oval Hump
19" L x 15" W x 6" H



HP07 Oval Hump
6" L x 4¼" W x 2½" H



HP08 Oval Hump
17" L x 13" W



HDM-1 Rectangle Hump
7" L x 5 3/8" W x 1 7/8" H



HDM-2 Rectangle Hump
9" L x 4 3/8" W x 1½" H



HDM-3 Rectangle Hump
10½" L x 7½" W x 1" H



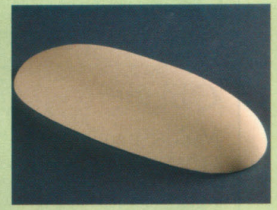
HDM-4 Pear Shaped Hump
7¼" L x 4¼" W x 1½" H



HDM-5 Egg Shaped Hump
7¼" L x 5½" W x 3" H



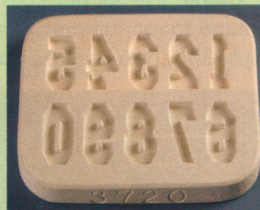
HDM-6 Pear Shaped Hump
10¼" L x 7" W x 2¼" H



HDM-7 Oblong Hump
11¼" L x 4¾" W x 2" H



3719 Alphabet A-Z
1.25" T



3720 Numbers 0-9
1.5" T



3721 Celebration Doodads
3" L



3723 Girl Stuff Doodads
2.5" - 3"



3722 Sports Doodads
2.5" - 3"



SG01 Three Fish Sprig



SG02 Shells Sprig



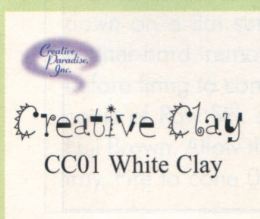
SG04 Sunflower Sprig



SG05 Ivy Sprig



SG06 Magnolia / Bird / Butterfly



CC01 Low-fire White Clay
50 pound box



Platter made with CC01 Low-fire White Clay
using SP04 Oval Slump & SG04 Sunflower Sprig

*Check back with the
Creative Paradise website often for new
products and techniques!*

More Great Projects...

Rectangular Dish with Ivy

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
HDM-1 Rectangular Hump
SG05 Ivy Sprig
Finish: Mayco EL-108 Jade Moss
Elements Glaze

Follow steps 1-11 for the basic hump mold process (page CP4). Attach a coil (score and dab slip) on the bottom to give a level surface to prevent the dish from rocking. Attach ivy sprigs along the top edge of the dish and roll out small pointed coils of clay for the vines. Once dried, remove from the mold and fire to cone 03. Apply three coats of glaze and fire to cone 06.



Oblong Coil Dish

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
HDM-7 Oblong Hump
Finish: Mayco E-853 Emerald Green Exotic Glaze

Roll out five long coils of clay and lay them lengthwise over the hump mold. Create five shorter coils and weave them through the lengthwise clay coils. Press one coil all the way around the outer edge to join all parts. Press small coils on the ends for handles. Once dry, remove from the mold and fire to cone 03. Apply 3-4 coats of glaze and fire to cone 06.



Basket

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
HP07 Oval Hump
Finish: Mayco E-697 Mottled Aqua SC-53 Purple Haze

Follow steps 1-11 for the basic hump mold process (page CP4). Before removing the mold, create a small coil of clay and attach it to the bottom by scoring and applying slip. Turn the entire piece (including mold) over and press on a flat surface to level coil. Remove mold and pinch and pull clay along top edge. Roll two coils of clay and twist together to make a handle. Score, attach with slip and allow sufficient drying time before firing to cone 03. Apply three coats of Mottled Aqua to the inside and outside of basket. Use a sea wool sponge loaded with Purple Haze to lightly dab color along the edge and handle. Fire to cone 06.



Square Dish with Wheat

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
SP01 Square Slump
Finishes: Mayco SC-15 Stroke and Coat

Follow instructions for basic slump mold process (page CP4). Press wheat into clay forming a pattern around the plate. Slap a stick from a small tree branch against the surface to create small random indentations. Remove from the mold once it is leather-hard. Allow the piece to dry and fire to cone 03. Apply one coat of Tuxedo over entire surface and wash back with a damp sponge so the color stays in indentations. Fire to cone 6. (This project was completed with Brownstone I Stoneware Clay from A.R.T. Studio Clay and high-fired. The orange color you see on the piece is the clay color.)



Ball and Coil Hump

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
HDM-3 Rectangle Hump
Finish: Mayco CC-103 Raw Silk and CC-106 Fuji Brown Classic Crackle Glazes

Roll out several coils of clay and a couple dozen balls of clay about the size of a large gumball. Begin by pressing a coil around the entire base of the hump mold. Randomly press the coils and balls against your hump mold flattening them so there are no openings or gaps. Smooth the surface once it is completely covered with clay. Feel free to add texture. Rolling four balls of clay and adding them to the four corners, by scoring and adding slip, can add feet. Turn the entire piece over (while on mold) and press down on a flat surface to level. Once the object is leather-hard, remove and allow sufficient drying time before firing to cone 03. Glaze the interior with three coats of Raw Silk and backside and top edges with Fuji Brown. Allow the Fuji Brown to drip down into the tray. Fire to cone 06.



Hosting a Party



Think about all the different kinds of successful party plans that are making money for individuals every day. Friends invite friends into their home with the intention of getting them to buy items. Perks, credits for product, or free items are usually offered to the host for getting a group together. The more they sell, the more they usually get in return.

The concept of this program is to allow the attendees to make one-of-a-kind works of art. Since no two items are perfectly identical, and a variety of shapes are available, customers can attend several parties to fashion coordinating pieces or completely different objects. Your base of customers can expand rather quickly after your first party.

First Things First

Get started by creating a bunch of samples to give potential participants ideas. Get these samples in front of prospective customers. In a studio, you can simply display the samples in your classroom or on your checkout counter. For those planning to host a get-together in their home, try displaying examples at your workplace. Ask friends or family to exhibit the items at their place of work

Hosting a party can be as simple as a gathering of friends and family in your home. Most children love to play with clay, so this technique is ideal for scout projects, birthday parties and similar group ventures. Your first venture into party hosting may even lead to the start of a small business.

Craft shows or art exhibits are a great place to meet prospective artists. Set up a display of finished samples and demonstrate the process. Allow interested spectators to try their hand at working with the clay. Pass out brochures giving all the information needed to set up a clay party.

Market your program to school groups, scout troops, bridal showers, kids' classes, daycare facilities, or other groups who may have an interest in creating something fun and educational.

Try demonstrating in unlikely places. Your local home show is an ideal place to find new customers seeking to decorate a home. Bridal shows are filled with groups looking for unique shower options. Friends can create complimentary items for a special personalized setting for the bride.

Leave copies of this publication in waiting areas like your dentist's office, car wash, oil change facilities, or any other areas where potential customers are likely to pick up a copy and see what the program is about. Be sure to include your contact information on a sheet stapled to the back cover.

How to Charge

Set a rate with an all-inclusive price. Offer a prepackaged amount of clay, the use of molds and tools, firings and a selection of colors for one set fee. Allow customers to purchase additional packages of clay at an additional charge.

Do you plan to have a two-part class so artists can paint their own items? Some people may prefer to get items back completely finished. In this case, offer a few colors from which to choose, and figure in a cost for this service.

Don't expect every participant to want to purchase their own set of molds and tools, but certainly offer the products for sale. Encourage each person to start his or her own party program by offering a reasonable starter package. If you own a kiln, this could result in continuous firing business.

Perks for the Host

Your host will be doing most of the hard work by getting friends to attend the party. Without a host, you don't have customers. Treat them well by offering their project at no charge. You may even offer them a percentage of the sales in cash or credit toward purchasing products for themselves. Remember, if you can get them hooked on this technique, they may be bringing you items for firing or coming to you to purchase clay, colors, or other materials.

More Great Projects...



New Ideas - an Ongoing Process

Design new projects and techniques so people have a reason to go to more than one party. Fresh ideas will keep people coming back and buying more. Add a little mystery by announcing the introduction of new products later in the month. That way when someone in the group books another party, others will want to attend to see what is so exciting and new.

Creating a Database

Have your guests sign up for door prizes at each party. Ask for their name, address, city, state, zip, phone, e-mail and other pertinent information. You might also want to ask if they would be interested in hosting a party of their own. This gives you a great list of potential new hosts.

Follow-up

Use your database to keep in touch with customers. Periodically send out brochures or color snapshots of new samples in hopes to book more parties. Just because someone has been to or hosted a party does not mean they can't do it again.

Squiggle Dish

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
HDM-1 Rectangle Hump
Finish: Mayco EL-101 Oyster Shell

Follow the instructions for the previous project for the "Ball and Coil Hump" but make different sized balls and roll up some coils to add variety. Fire to cone 03 after sufficient drying time. Apply three coats of Oyster Shell and fire to cone 06.



Oval Platter

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
SP04 Oval Slump
Finish: Mayco EL-104 Heather Moor

Follow steps 1-10 for the basic slump process (page CP4). Use a small block of wood to bash the edges of the platter. Press foam stamps firmly into the center in a pattern you select. Remove from mold when leather-hard and allow sufficient drying time. Fire to cone 03. Apply three coats of Heather Moor and fire to cone 06.



More Great Projects...

Fish Platter

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
HP05 and HP06 Oval Humps
Finish: Mayco Stroke and Coat

Roll out your clay and cut out your fish pattern. Place over hump mold until leather-hard. Allow sufficient drying time before firing to cone 03. Create your design work with Stroke and Coat colors and apply clear glaze before firing to cone 06. Try working with white and terra cotta clay bodies for different effects. Brushing a coat of white slip over terra cotta greenware, decorating with one-coat underglazes, and carving designs and highlights through the layers can achieve a unique finish.



Solid Star

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
HP06 Oval Hump
Finish: Mayco E-968 Mountain Mist

Roll out your clay and cut out the shape of a large star. Lay the clay over the top of your hump mold and remove when leather-hard. Allow sufficient drying time before firing to cone 03. Apply three coats of Mountain Mist and fire to cone 06.

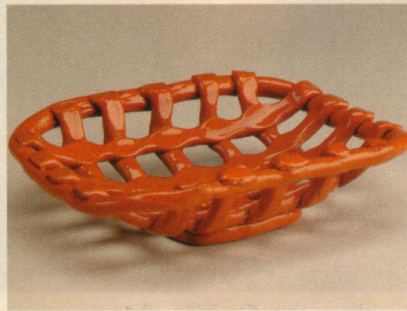


Rectangular Coil Dish

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
HDM-1 Rectangular Hump
Finish: Clear Glaze over Terra Cotta Clay

Roll out coils of clay and place four coils lengthwise across your hump mold. Place five coils widthwise over the top of the other coils. Press one coil all the way around the outer edge. Attach a coil on the bottom and turn mold over and press down to level.

Remove mold when leather-hard and allow sufficient drying time before firing to cone 03. Apply two coats of clear glaze and fire to cone 06.



Deep Round Dish

Molds: by Creative Paradise, Inc.
SPO3 Round Slump
SG06 Magnolia Sprig
Finish: Mayco E-968 Mountain Mist, E-970 Heavy Metal, E-103 Midnight Mist and PC-602 White Cascade

Follow steps 1-11 for the basic slump process (page CP4). Press a bath towel into the inside of the bowl to create texture. Use a small block of wood to bash in the edge of the clay. Press and fire the double and single leaf sprig and use the bisque as a stamp for impressions along the top edge of your bowl. Allow sufficient drying time before firing to cone 03. Apply three coats of Heavy Metal to the exterior of bowl and three coats of Mountain Mist to the interior. Randomly dab and drizzle Heavy Metal, White Cascade and Midnight mist along the top edge of the bowl allowing it to run down into the interior. Fire to cone 06.

