

Potterman

creativity set
potter's wheel

set #2
**Candle-
holders**

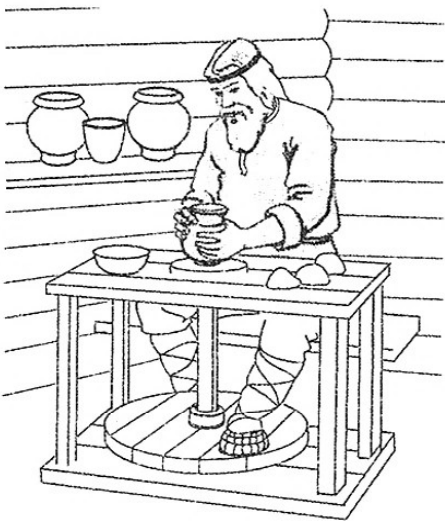
creativity set

Fantazër

Let's make a candleholder!

Pottery has existed for a long time. Some pottery work belongs to the prehistoric era. From all those shards, vases, tablets with inscriptions historians learned a lot about the ancient man's life.

Pottery is one of the most ancient arts.



Many years ago any pottery vessel, jar or ornamental thing had to be made with one's own hands. Nowadays most of these everyday objects are produced by machines. Pottery creation has become art and passion.

The potter's wheel has a long history too. It was being used in Egypt even 4000 years before Christ's birth. Since then the potter's wheel has not really changed. Your potter's wheel is equipped with a motor for rotation, but other than that it doesn't differ from its forerunner.

Preparation

Try to find a comfortable place for

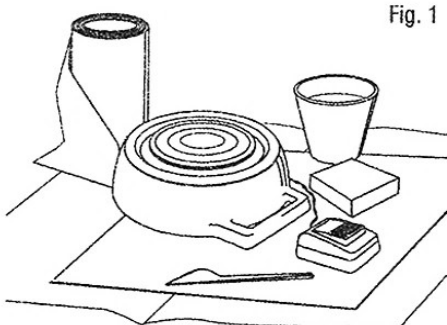


Fig. 1

working. Ask your parents where to establish your studio. It better be not far from a sink.

Here's what you will need:

- a stable table and a chair
- a newspaper to cover the table
- a plastic pad for areas where water will be used
- a small bucket half filled with water
- a paper towel
- a stand for the pedal (fig. 1)

To prepare the potter's wheel:

• Take off the cover on the back of the pedal in order to open the battery compartment (type R14). Insert four batteries as shown in the picture. Close the cover of the battery compartment, fig. 2.

• To test the motor push the start button on the pedal.

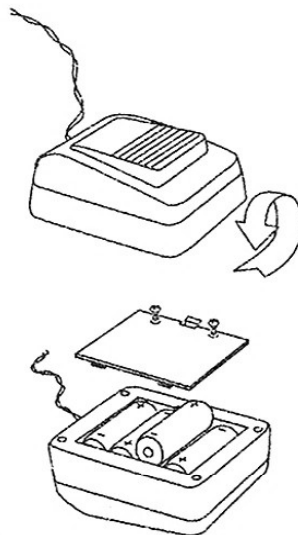


Fig. 2

• Install the potter's wheel in front of you and position the pedal under the table so that it is easy to use during your work. If you cannot reach the pedal with your foot, put it on any kind of platform (a small chair, a box, books).

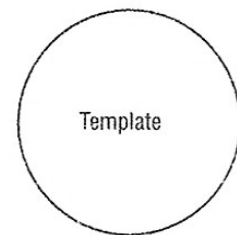
Once made sure the potter's wheel is intact you can start working.

Always keep the wheel and the pit beneath the rotating disc clean from clay.

When you have finished your work, clean up after yourself. Wash the instruments, clean the top of the wheel and mop its bottom with a damp cloth. Take out the batteries and make sure there is no water in the motor or the battery compartment.

Preparing the clay and forming an object

Before starting work you need to prepare the clay to make it moist and kneadable, however it mustn't stick to your hands too hard. If your piece of clay is not smooth enough, moisten it a bit, wrap it in a wet cloth for a couple of hours. After that, it is necessary to knead the clay



properly in order to get rid of all blebs and receive a homogeneous structure.

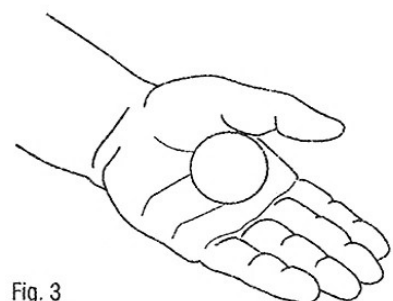


Fig. 3

We will need a small piece of clay with a 3cm diameter (see template and fig. 3). Give it a proper globate shape. Form a small pit its centre with your thumb.

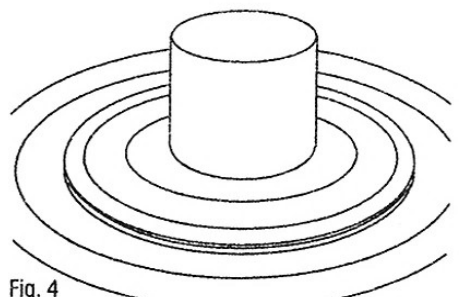


Fig. 4

Moisten your hands. It is very important to place the prepared ball exactly in the middle of the wheel, which surface has to be entirely dry, otherwise the clay will be sliding off the rotating disc. If the clay is not placed in the middle of the wheel, the same problem may occur. The prepared piece is going to bounce to and fro while rotating and you won't be able to work.

Start working by slowly pushing the pedal. We offer two ways of working the potter's wheel. One of them is to take away spare clay parts with the special stick during rotation. Confidently hold the stick in your hand smoothly taking away the spare clay. With the other hand, moistened with water, hold the piece from the inside. From time to time you should clean the stick from clay, moisten the piece on the outside with water and keep taking away the spare clay giving the piece the right shape.

The second method is called "pulling out the shape". Once the wheel starts working softly push the clay with wet hands trying to achieve a cylindrical

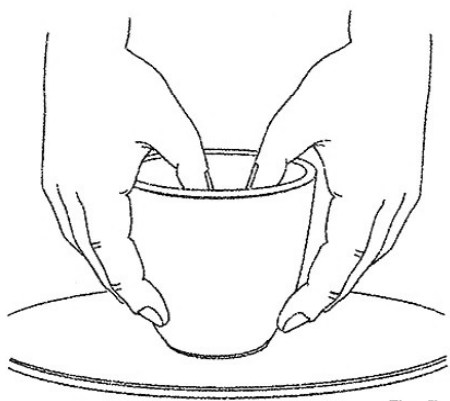


Fig. 5

shape, fig. 4. This may not work out at once. Working with a potter's wheel requires persistence and patience. Practice until the piece gets the right cylindrical shape.

The clay cylinder is the basic element for creating objects of different shapes.

Do not forget to moisten your hands so that the piece can slide well in them.

Carefully pushing the cylinder's upper edges move the clay towards the bottom spreading it apart at the same time. Some clay for building the candleholder's cup should remain in the centre, fig. 5. After you have formed the saucer you can begin to form the small cylindrical cup. Push the centre of the piece and pull it with constant pressure from bottom to top, fig. 6.

Wet hands guarantee, that the object

will rotate and not stick to your palms.

As soon as you are satisfied with the achieved shape you have to turn off the machine.

Ornamentation and colouring

As long as your creation remains wet you can decorate it with circles, spirals or other geometrical shapes.

To make spirals or circles on your jar take the knife, softly touch the object with the stick and move it down while the wheel is rotating.

In order to make circles do not move the stick to the bottom of the jar the way you have to with spirals, but hold it on the

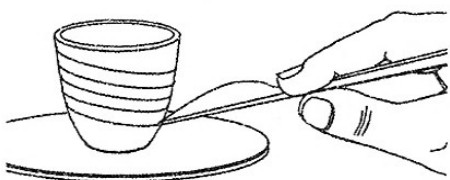


Fig. 6

same spot while the wheel is rotating. Repeat this procedure a couple of times all over the jar from top to bottom, fig. 7. You can also carve geometrical or other shapes and lines into the surface..

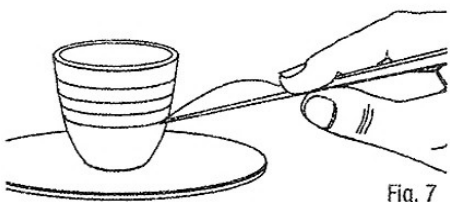


Fig. 7

Cutting

In order to remove the jar from the wheel you have to give it about 20 minutes to dry.

Use the caprone thread extending it in your hands and cut off the object along the wheel's surface, fig. 8.

If you like, you can ornament the candleholder with beads or other small objects by carefully pressing them into the moist clay trying not to damage the creation.

Dry the ready-made object at room



Fig. 8

temperature avoiding draughts. After it has dried completely you can paint it

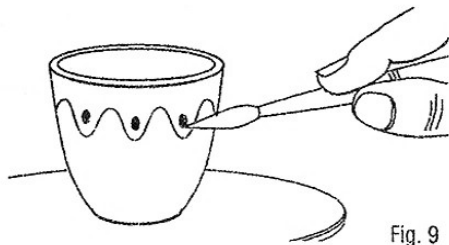


Fig. 9

with water colours, fig. 9.

Keep the batteries in a dry place. After finishing the work take the batteries out of the machine and wipe the battery compartment dry.

Clean the potter's wheel each time after using. It will be very difficult to rid the wheel of the clay once it has dried.

Attention!

Remember, that creations made with this set can only be used as decoration and are not designated for food and drinks.

Do not use old and new batteries together at the same time.

Do not use zincal and cadmium batteries together.

Mind the polarity.

Used batteries are to be thrown into the waste bin.

Good luck with your creativity!