

# *Pinch Pot*



**Ceramics/Advanced  
Ceramics  
Mr. Martin 3A**

# *Japanese Tea Bowls*

Wabi-Sabi Aesthetic



# *Visual Arts Standards*

## ❖ **5.0 Connections, Relationships, Applications**

– 5.2 Create a work of art that communicates a cross-cultural or universal theme taken from literature or history.

### – **2.0 Creative Expression**

❖ Solve a visual arts problem that involves the effective use of the elements of art and the principles of design.



# *Upon completing this unit, students will be able to. . .*

- ❖ Define the Japanese aesthetic of wabi-sabi.
- ❖ Compare and contrast winter tea bowls and summer tea bowls.
- ❖ Identify and synthesize wabi-sabi aesthetic standards into a tea bowl design.
- ❖ Form a functional and structurally sound tea bowl using pinching techniques.
- ❖ Define and apply a creative, original, design to the tea bowls' surfaces.



# *Clay Vocabulary*

## *Pinch*



– Forming a pot by pinching with the fingers and the thumb



# *Clay Vocabulary*

## ❖ Lip

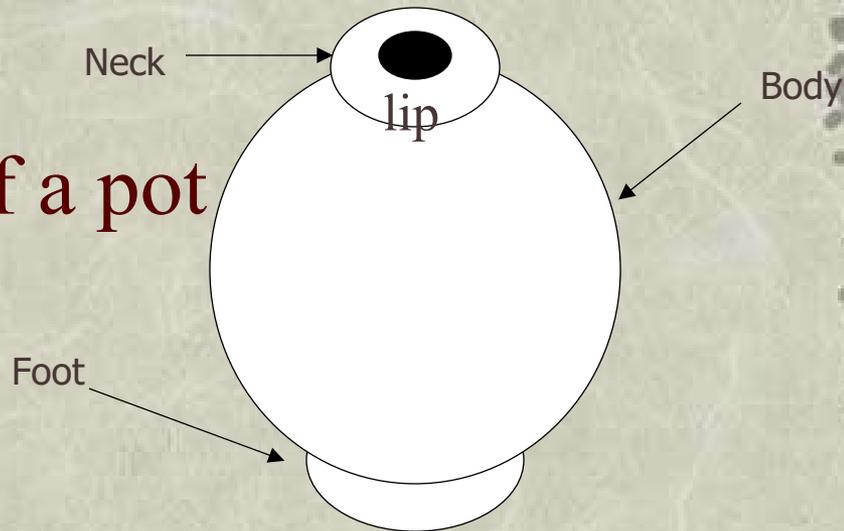
– The top edge of a pot

## ❖ Body of a Pot

– The belly of a pot

## ❖ Foot

– The bottom of a pot



# *Tea Bowl Vocabulary*

## *Japan*

### ❖ Wabi Sabi

- The beauty of things imperfect, impermanent
- Tea Ceremony



### ❖ Chanoyu - Ritualized way of serving tea



A wood-carving made by Japanese artist Toshikata Mizuno (1866-1903) depicting a tea ceremony

# *Ceremonies and Food*

What are some examples of foods or drinks that are connected to ceremonies or rituals that you have experienced?





# *Japanese Tea Ceremony*

## *Chanoyu*

### ❖ Chanoyu

- Serving of tea, ritualized over time
- Symbolizes *simplicity* and represents the Zen principles of:
- harmony, respect, purity, and tranquility.



# *Tea's Influence on Ceramics*

- ❖ Tea drinking originated in China 5000 years ago.
- ❖ 9<sup>th</sup> c. Zen Buddhist Monks introduced tea to Japan from China
- ❖ Japanese aristocracy adopted tea drinking as a social custom.
- ❖ Tea drinking spread from China and Japan to other parts the world and was adopted by all social classes.
- ❖ Tea drinking rituals develop requiring demand for ceramic tea ware.



# *Aesthetics*

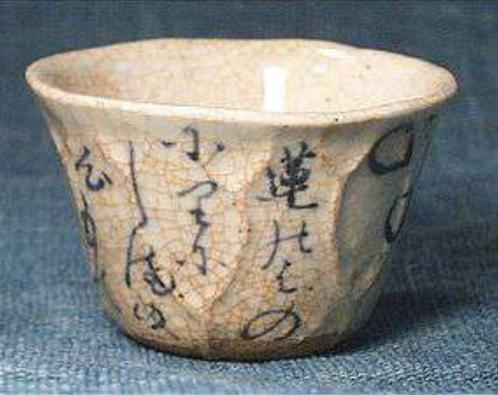
## ❖ Aesthetics

- Value and beauty as they relate to the arts

## ❖ Japanese Aesthetics

- Affected by the *Chinese* and *Buddhism*
- Value of *harmony* in all things
  - Nature-based, concerned with the beauty of simplicity and harmony with nature
  - **Wabi-Sabi**
- Wabi – inner nature of human life
  - Sabi – outer, material side of life





# *Wabi-Sabi*

## ❖ Wabi-Sabi

### – Beauty of things:

- Imperfect, impermanent, and simple
- Modest and humble
- Unconventional

### – Characteristics of wabi-sabi

- Suggestion of natural process, irregular, intimate, unpretentious, earthy, simple
- Embracing imperfection was honored as a healthy reminder to cherish our unpolished selves, here and now, just as we are.
- **Correlates with concepts of Zen Buddhism**



# *Wabi-Sabi*

- ❖ Visual characteristics match its physical characteristics  
(if it looks heavy, it should feel heavy;  
if it looks delicate, it should feel light)
- ❖ Fits comfortably in the palm of your hand  
with a sound, balanced foot
- ❖ The rim should be rounded.



# *The Tea Ceremony*

- ❖ Ceremony is usually a gathering of 4 guests
  - A break from daily stress
- ❖ The guests pass through a small garden
  - Enter a quite shaded place while waiting to be called on by the host
  - Host will sound a gong. The garden path is called *Roji*

Path of stepping stones in  
Korakuen garden in Okayama





*The Roji is a way  
apart from this bustling world  
and its many cares.*



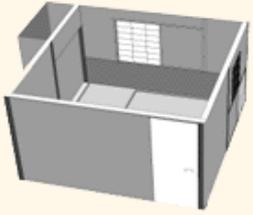
*How will the path sweep away  
the dust from within our hearts?*

Namboroku, a poem ascribed to a tea  
master Sen no Rikyu (1522-1591)

# *Entering the Tearoom*

- ❖ To enter the tearoom, guests must
  - Remove their *shoes*
  - Clean their *hands* and *mouth* with water
  - Pass through a small opening (3 ft. high)





# *Inside the Tearoom*

- ❖ The tearoom is
  - Kept *empty*
    - Empty space is beautiful and valued
  - Inside there is an alter with scroll painting and a flower arrangement

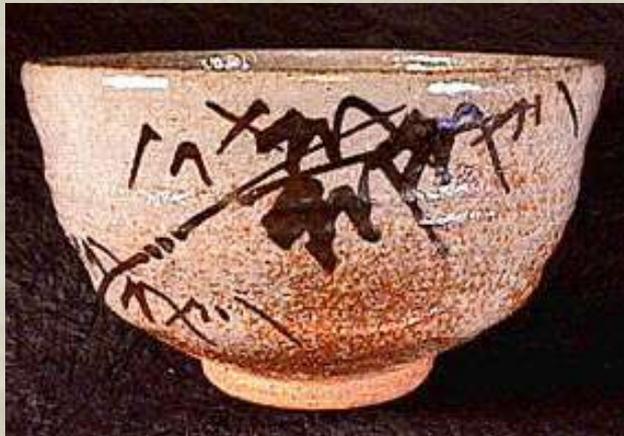






# *The Tea bowl*

- ❖ Often bowls with a foot are used
  - Irregular in shape and texture (wabi–Sabi)
    - Handbuilt
    - Have own personal character
  - Designed to fit the hand well





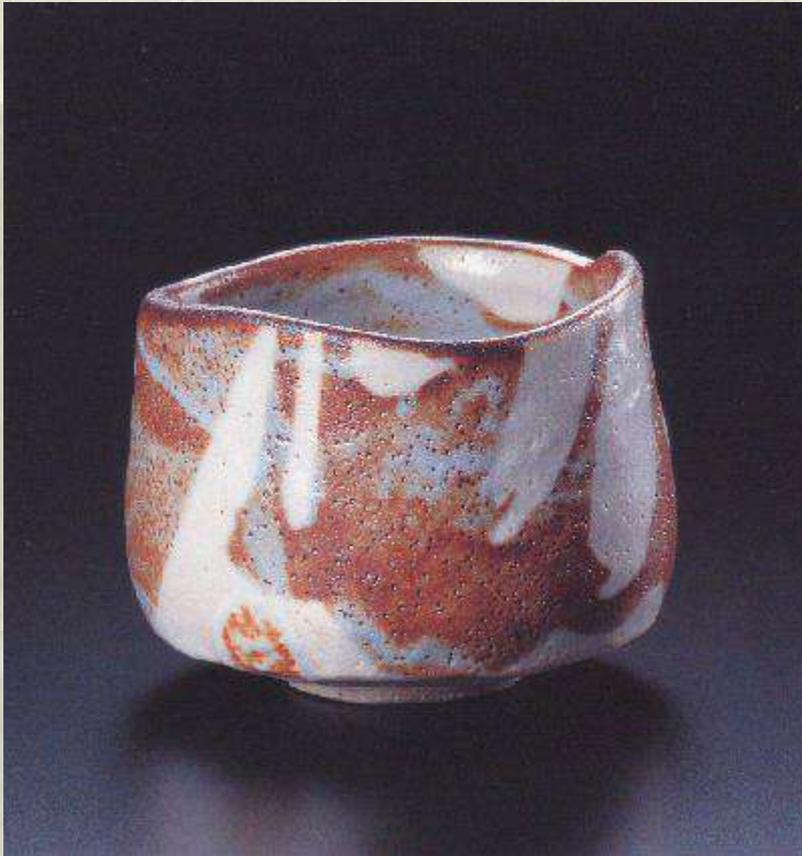
# *The Tea Ceremony* *Chanoyu*

- ❖ The tea ceremony is an art form
  - Prepared by a *tea master*
    - Takes **20 years** to become a tea master
  - Every move before, during, and after the ceremony has rules
  - The ceremony teaches:
    - *Harmony* with the universe, and *tranquility*



# *What's the difference?*

**Winter Tea Bowl**



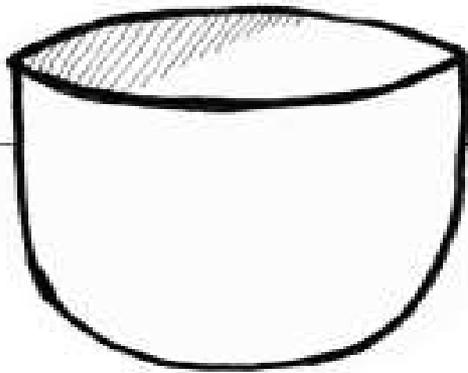
**Summer Tea Bowl**



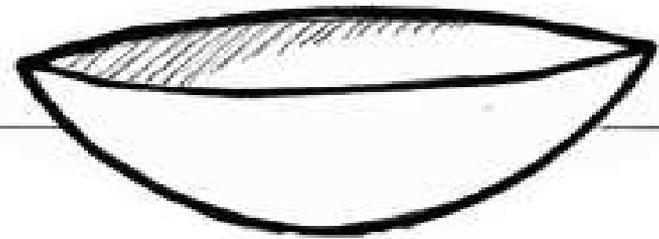
# *What's the difference?*

**Winter Tea Bowl**

**Summer Tea Bowl**



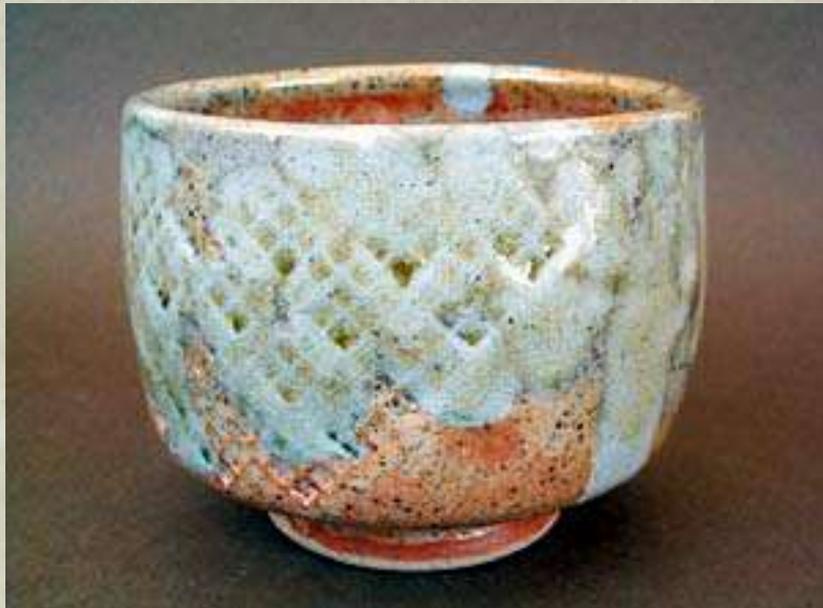
Winter Bowl  
narrow and deep

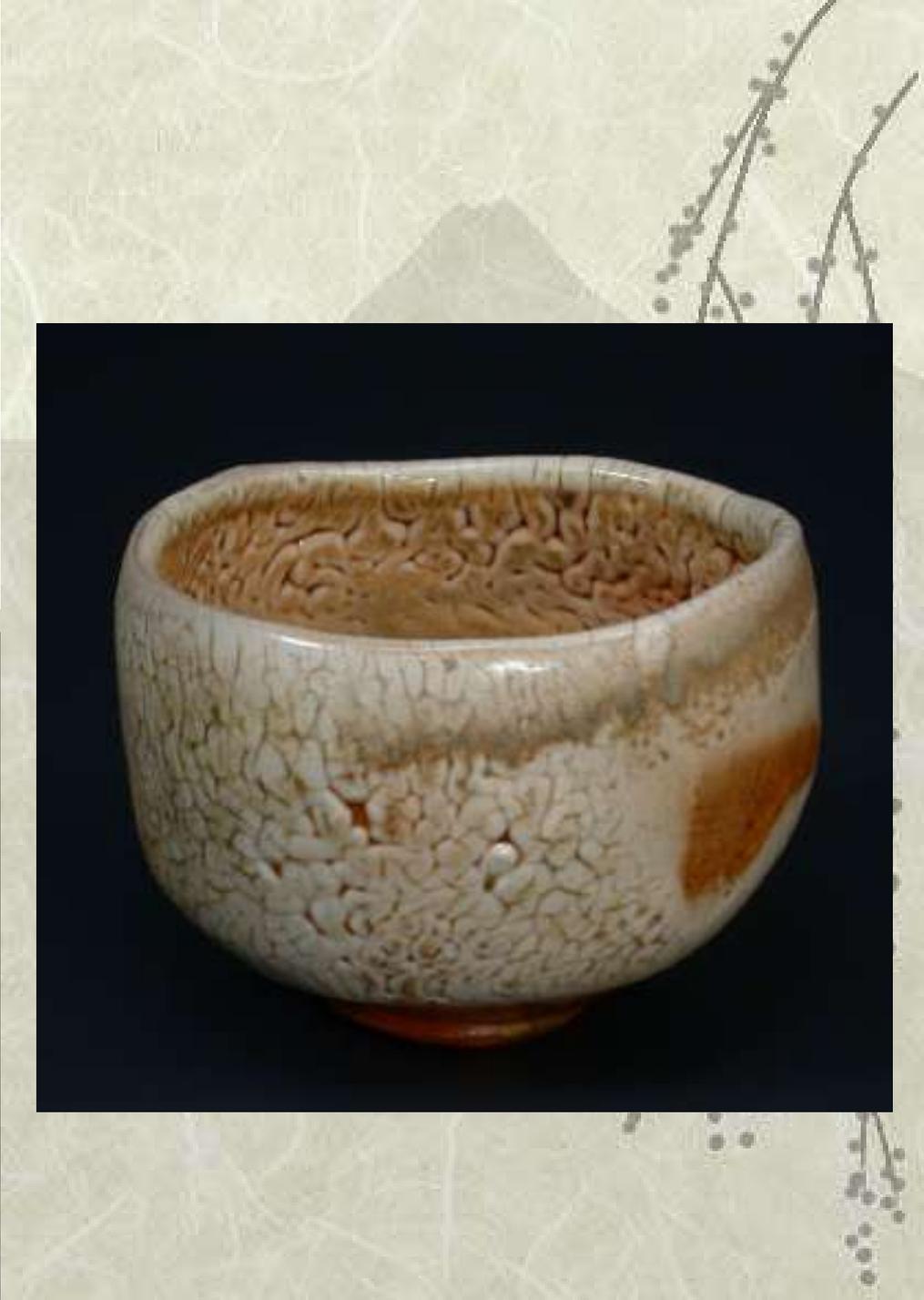


Summer Bowl  
shallow and wide

# *Tea bowls*







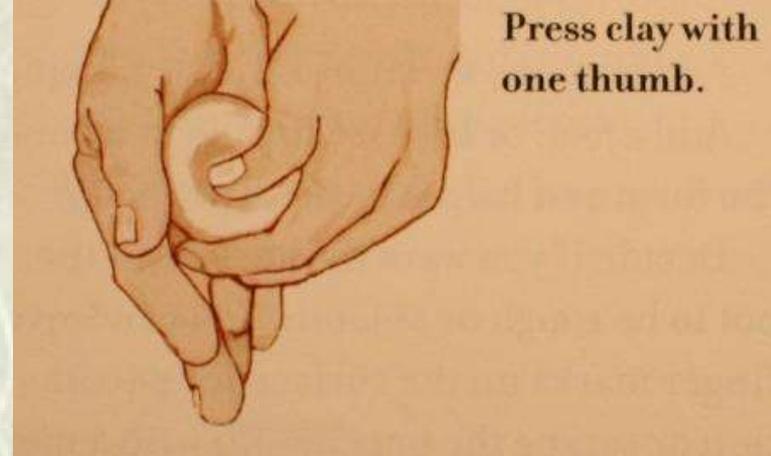
# Using Pinch Techniques to Create a Tea Bowl

Three types of hand building

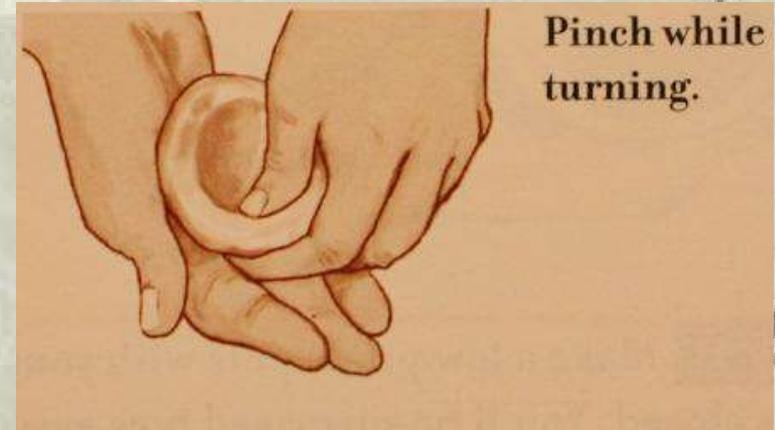
- ❖ Pinch - Forming a clay object by pinching with the fingers.
- ❖ Slab - Forming a clay object from a flat piece of clay.
- ❖ Coil - Forming a clay object with ropes of clay.



- Start with a ball of clay.
- Hold the clay in one hand while creating a well in the center of the ball with the thumb of the other hand.



**Careful!** Not too deep or you might push through the bottom of the pot.



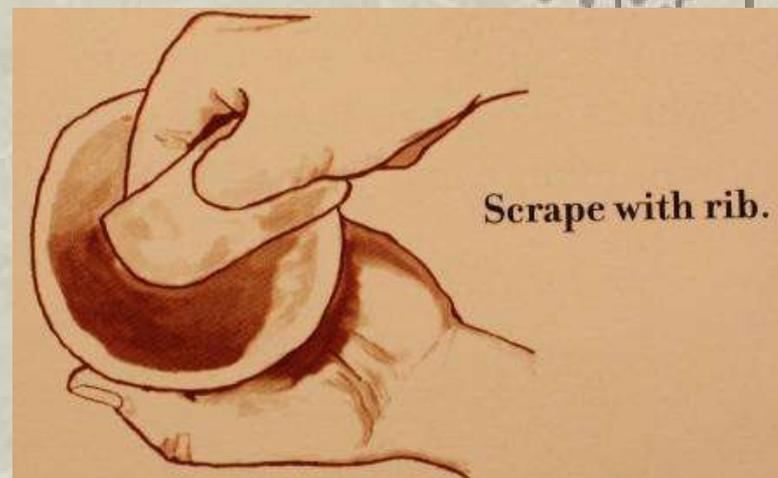
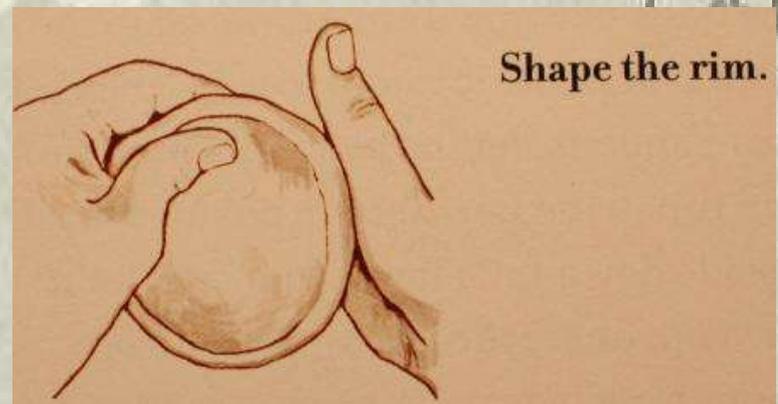
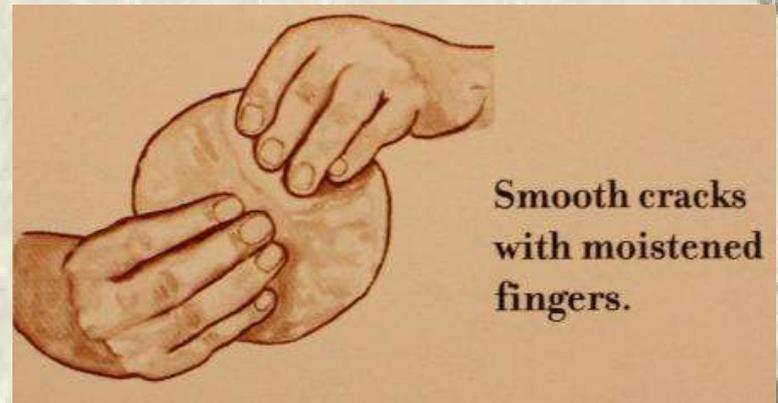
- Start at the bottom of the bowl and gently and evenly pinch the clay upward in a tight overlapping spiral.



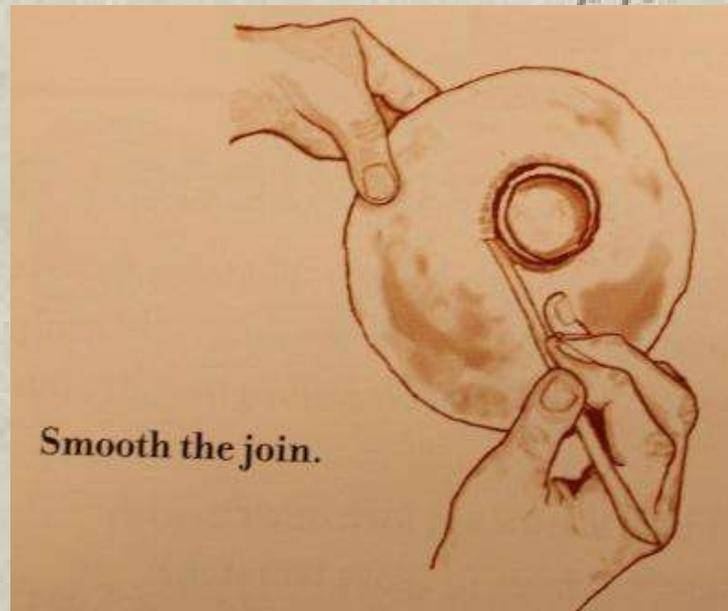
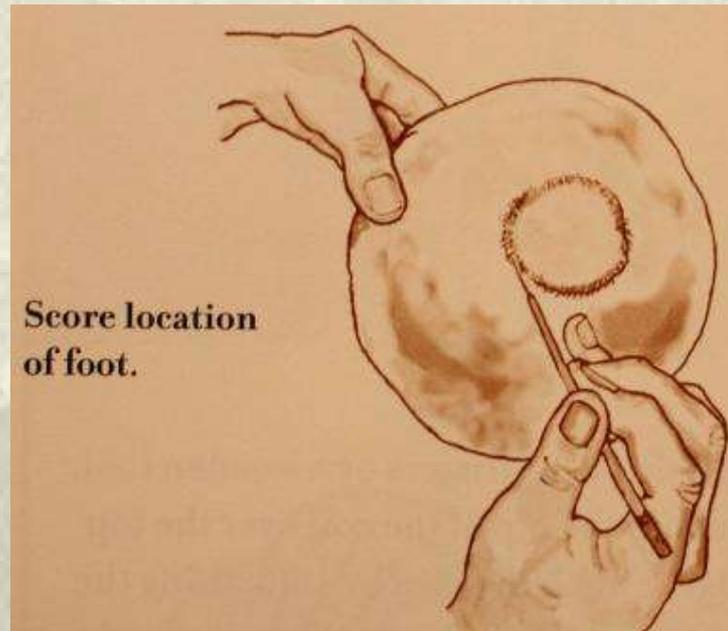
- Make a complete rotation for each row of finger pinches. Each row should slightly overlap.



- If the clay begins to crack, moisten your fingers.
- Let the clay stiffen slightly, pinch the walls thinner and give the rim it's final shape.
- Smooth the surface with a rubber rib.
- Paddle the walls to achieve the desired form.



- Roll out an even coil for the foot.
- Score and add slip to the two surface that will be attached.
- Apply the foot and smooth out the joint.



# Pinch Pot Requirements

- ❖ Size: Start with 1 pound of clay
- ❖ The walls need to be even.
- ❖ The walls should be no thicker than your pointer finger and no thinner than your pinky finger.
- ❖ Pinch Pot needs to have a foot, body and a rounded lip.
- ❖ Pinch Pot needs to be round on the bottom (not flat) with a foot.
- ❖ It needs to have a simple design that displays pattern and repetition.

