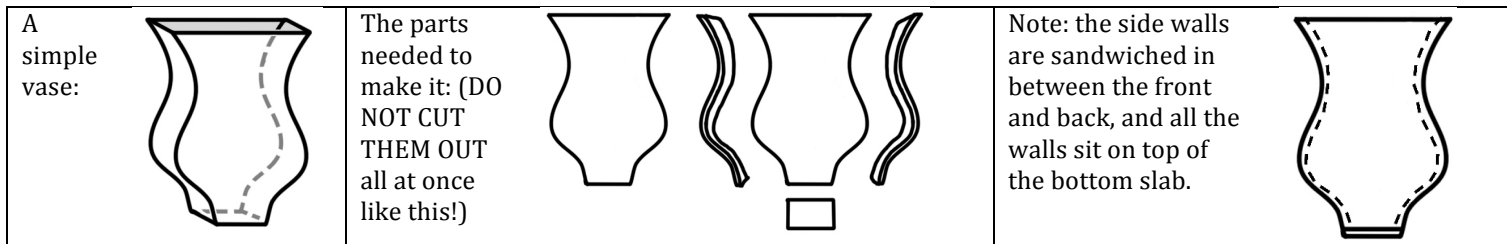


Curved Slab Vessel or Sculpture Project

Purpose: To learn how to build with soft and firm slabs of clay.

Goals Checklist:

1. ___ Has a bottom, front, back, and two curved sides; may also have top
2. ___ 8" - 12" (20 - 30 cm) tall, around 3" - 5" (7.5 - 12.5cm) deep
3. ___ No canvas texture or sharp nasty edges; rim is neatly finished
4. ___ Well-crafted and aesthetically pleasing, shows care and creative effort, not cracks



Process notes:

1. Sketch out some ideas! Heck yeah.
2. Make a life-size paper template of the front/back.
3. Roll out slabs for **all** the pieces you need at the same time - make them larger than what you need. It is a good idea to have some extra. **Do not cut them to shape yet!**
4. Smooth away any canvas texture - blegh!
5. Let flat pieces firm up to leather hard, but once they are don't let them get any drier.
6. Let the slabs for the curved sides firm up just a bit before cutting them into strips of the desired height - measure to make sure they are all the same height and use a straight edge to guide your cuts. Do not cut the strips to length until you have bent them to shape and are fitting them in place. Once they are bent just right, let them firm up to leather hard also, so all your pieces are near the same wetness and will hold their form when joined.
7. Once the flat slabs have firmed up, trace the template outlines on them. Cut away excess clay **one inch out** from the template outline - leaving some extra clay around the template makes life way easier if you're not perfect.
8. Starting with the back side or the bottom, score, slip and attach the sides, pressing firmly in place. Make sure every place both pieces make contact is scored and slipped. The pieces will want to slide around as you join them, so after joining each one go back and make sure they are all lined up exactly as you want them.
9. Clean off excess slip. Join on the top or front, if applicable, tidy things up a bit, and then wrap up the piece and let the joins firm up for a while before continuing work on the piece.
10. Apply a thin coil/bead of clay along the inside of seams to reinforce them and make them look more pleasing.
11. Trim off any excess clay as needed - running a large flat scraper along the sides can help with this.
12. Make sure to bevel or slightly round all the edges, top to bottom.

Nothing says all the sides must meet neatly at corners. On this vase the front is different than the back, and the sides are sandwiched in the middle and line up with neither, as shown to the far right with the front removed. Be creative - you could make vases, bottles, lanterns and luminaries, sculpture, etc.



For pierced objects: make sure there are frequent vertical elements that run top to bottom to keep the piece from collapsing.

