

# Ceramic Workshop

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# Introduction

In this project the main aim was to learn the process of slip casting. In this presentation I will show the different steps I had to go through in order to complete my final piece.







# Main Inspiration

My main influence was autumn  
as it is my favourite season.

I am inspired by the  
natural earthy colours and  
the natural organic shapes  
of the leaves, acorns, flowers,  
trees and mushrooms.

I wanted to find a way to  
incorporate these ideas  
To create something that  
would represent the beauty  
of this season.





# Existing designs

Some examples of  
Ceramic pieces  
That influenced  
me. I just love the  
Different textures  
and the flow that  
is running within  
These ceramic  
pieces.





# Process- Materials



Object



Water



Plaster



Wooden Boards



Clay



Coin

# Process- Making two part Mould



This is the object that I was trying to mould. I found the shape of this vase Very interesting as the shape dramatically Changes as it goes up. The original vase was Made from wood. My idea was to manipulate This vase to change it completely and make A more interesting shape. I decided to wrap rope Around the vase starting from the top to create a very Textural shape in contrast with the smooth texture at the Bottom. The reason why I did this was because I wanted to Create a shape similar to an acorn.



This was My original attempt o Wrapping the rope around the Vase. Personally I feel that This style is more visually Appealing rather then the Second attempt but the Reason why I didn't go further With this idea was because I Learnt that when I would Try and create a two part Mould from this the clay Would get stuck inside the Gaps and be unable to come Out as one complete piece. I went further with this idea And the photographs below Show the process and why I Didn't work out.



My first attempt was an utter failure due to the fact that I didn't understand the process of making a two part mould thoroughly.



When I tied both moulds together and Poured the liquid clay mixture inside I waited for 3 days for it to dry and as I tried taking it out half the clay was Trapped inside from this I learnt that my Mould has to have a continuous texture Going on so that the mould can be taken Out easily rather than getting stuck in the Gaps.

## The Result



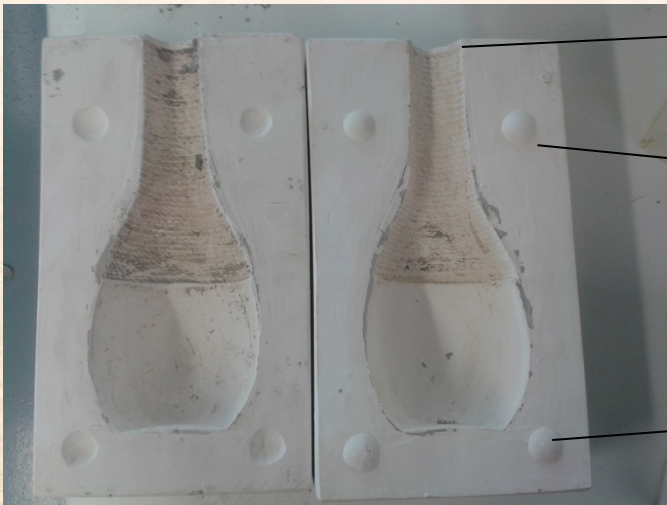
# Process- Making two Part Mould ( The right way)



1. Starting point- so here is my object. I stuck the rope around the wooden vase with PVA glue and left it to dry. I then got a piece of clay and stuck my object onto the table with clay. I marked the mid point of my object and then started to build up a border around the object till the mid-point with clay. Each side of this rectangular shape around the object was around 5cm off the object. The clay was to make a straight, smooth layer so that the mould could be made perfect.
2. The second stage was to get four wooden boards and secure the boards around the clay on each side with more clay on the outer and inner sides of the boards. This was done to make sure something moves or leaks out. Once this was done I made a mixture by mixing both water and plaster. The measurements were 1 pint of water to 1.5 LB of plaster. Once I made the mixture I would stir it with my hands until all the lumps had disappeared and made a smooth mixture.
3. I then poured the mixture into the mould until it made a thick layer and covered the entire mould. I waited for around 30 minutes until the entire mould was solid and dry. As my first mould I got rid of all the excess clay and then got a coin and created a circular dent into each side of the mould.
4. Using the first mould with the object placed inside I again got four wooden boards and placed them around the mould with clay. Made another mixture of plaster and water , poured it in , waited 30 minutes and voila the second mould is made.



Securing the mould



→ The object was placed near the top so that there is a hole on the top when I pour the clay in during the next step

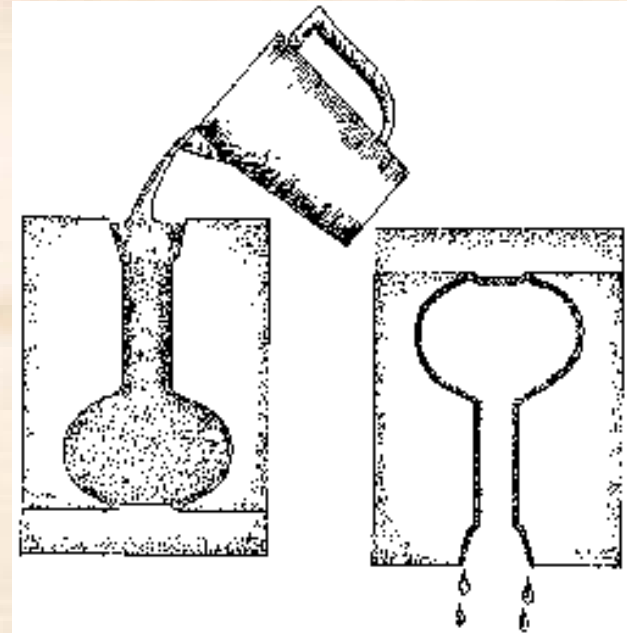
→ On the first mould a hole was made using a coin so when I made the second mould using the first mould the circular shape would come outwards rather than inwards so when they are joined together it fits perfectly.

→ The object wasn't placed right at the bottom as we wouldn't want the clay to leak out when we would make the clay mould.

# Process- Stage 2



1. As the 2 moulds are made the first stage is to tie them both together securely with the use of Elasticated bands. Once this is done I turned the machine on that mixes the casting slip ( liquid clay).
2. Then I made a rounded shape to cover the top bit of my plaster mould to pour the slip into.
3. Using a jug I filled the jug with the liquid clay and then poured the mixture into my mould and left it to dry for around 1 hour.
4. During that hour the plaster mould actually pulls the moisture out of clay. A more moisture is drawn out. A layer of solid clay is deposited around the interior of the plaster mould. When the layer is of the right Thickness after around an hour I then pour out the remaining clay inside.
5. Now that a hollow cast is left to harden inside the mould I then left it there to dry for 3 days and came back and slowly opened up my mould and took out my clay object.





# Clay Vase



So there you have it. This was the outcome of all the different processes that I went through. I am quite pleased with the outcome. I created a top to make it look Complete. The top was inspired by the natural shape of a mushroom. Now I just have to leave it dry and then I can put it in the kiln and glaze if after.