

# Pottery Ideas & Inspiration

technique focus



## Slip Trailing

Slip trailing is a technique where watered-down clay or 'slip' is added onto clay in decorated lines or shapes. Apply to unfired, leather-hard clay by dipping, brushing or using a slip trailer. Fire at earthenware temperatures. Slips remain matt and porous once bisque fired so apply a top coat of clear glaze and re-fire.



Pottersmakinginfo.com



Samantha Carmona



Early days  
1820-1850

Sgraffito is a technique where a layer of glaze or slip is added to a piece of pottery, then carved away once dry to show the base layer of colour. The word sgraffito derives from an Italian word meaning 'to scratch'. Apply underglaze to leather-hard clay by painting it on, dipping, spraying or pouring it. You can apply layers of different coloured underglaze, which will show through depending on how much pressure you use to carve.

## Sgraffito



Katherinehackl.com



Early days  
1400 CE



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# Wax Resist

Wax resist acts to repel glaze from the surface to which it is applied. When kiln fired, the wax dissipates, leaving the clay surface beneath as it was prior to firing. It can be applied to unglazed greenware or bisque and on top of previously applied unfired glazes or slip. Apply using a brush or sponge to the area you wish to cover.



# Pierced Work

Pierced decoration refers to holes cut into pottery pieces. Once the clay is leather-hard, it can be pierced. The pattern should be worked out in advance and marked on the dry clay before starting. It is recommended to use robust, sharp-bladed tools for piercing. While cutting, support the piece from behind with your other hand or hold an object against it. Use extreme caution, as too much pressure can break the piece.



Early days  
1215-1216 CE



# Coiled Work

Coil work is a method of hand-building pottery where rolled pieces of clay form the base, walls and style of your ceramic piece. The coils are stacked together and joined through pressure or sealing the gaps in between. Coil pots are more sturdy in large form than a pinch pot or slab-built pot at the same scale. Working in stages when making a tall pot is essential, as it can sag if too many coils are stacked in a single session.



# Slab Work and Press Mould Dishes

A clay slab is a piece of clay rolled or flattened into a sheet. They can be made by using a rolling pin or slab roller. Wedge a piece of clay and roll out your slab to the desired size. You can use rolling guides to help get an even thickness. The clay slabs can then be joined together to create walls and bases.



Press moulding refers to a process where clay is forced into a mould to take on a specific shape. When the mould is removed, the clay piece produced is a replica of the inside of the mould. Press moulds work great when reproducing multiple pieces of ceramics, such as bowls, plates and tiles. You can also create pottery shapes that would be difficult to throw on a wheel.

