

**NORTHCOTE POTTERY SUPPLIES  
TECHNICAL TIPS AND PRODUCT INFORMATION #33**

# **HANDBUILDING TECHNIQUES – PRESS MOULDING**

- Press moulding can be done into a plaster mould, a bisque fired piece of pottery (i.e. an unglazed terracotta pot) or a glad wrap lined glass/plastic/metal/wood form.
- Simply make a 1cm thick clay slab and then ease it into the mould shape gently. Press firmly and repeatedly into/against the mould shape till the slab takes the mould's form. Use a rubber kidney or metal scraper to smooth off the inside surface of the mould.  
**NB** instead of using a single slab of clay, you can use 1½ cm thick balls and coils of clay to create a patterned lining inside the mould. Be sure to smear the clay shape together very well on the inside surface of the form (this will hold the shape together). Add any additional detail such as handles, ornamentation, modeled features etc at this stage. One alternative to the press moulded bowl form (1/2 sphere) would be to join two press moulded ½ forms that have been made at the same time to form a full sphere as the basis of a sculptural form.
- Leave the clay form in the mould overnight to firm up. Next day, remove the form and sponge the firm edges and keep the form in plastic for 2 weeks until dry.
- Handle press moulded pieces with extreme care until they're fired, especially if they have curved rather than flat bases.

## **RECOMMENDED CLAY FOR THIS ACTIVITY**

**BEGINNERS: PS2000 Terracotta, PS3010 Stoneware, WEB White Earthenware**

**EXPERIENCED: PS4080 Fine White Earthenware, PS10 Porcelain, PS5000 Earthenware/Stoneware Blend**

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