



### Let's Get Building!

Below you will find the 9 steps to building your new mug. Find a comfortable environment, put on your favourite playlist, pour your favourite drink, and let's get started!

For in-depth instruction we recommend watching the Full Tutorial Video:

<https://sketchartworkshop.com/tutorials/>.

If you have questions anytime please  
Text or Call: 226-280-4704

### SUMMARY

**Project Difficulty:** Intermediate

**Duration:** 1-3 Hours

**Materials Included:** Chunk of Clay, Carving Knife, Small Paint Brush, Scraping Tool, Sponge, Parchment Paper, Paint (If Ordered).

**Additional Materials Needed:** Rolling Pin. *IF you don't have a rolling pin...well, you should go get one ;)...but, if not you can use a wine bottle or similar hard bottle.* You will also need a hand towel or paper towel, and small and big bowl of water. For the parchment paper provided, you can tape down the corners or upgrade to your own non-stick baking mat, craft mat, or a plastic placemat. Finally, if you have a plastic grocery or garbage bag to cover your mug during the drying stage it will help.

### Important Notes Before you Start:

- After handling clay **do not** wash your hands or towels in the sink. You do not want to get any clay into your drain and pipes. Get a big bowl of water and use that to wash your hands and tools. When finished, you can dump that water outside. No worries, our clay is raw from the earth and 100% environmentally friendly.
- If you mess up at any of the steps below, no problem! Just "re-wedge" your clay and start over... don't worry, you will learn what "wedging" means very soon ;)
- Remember this mug will not look like a perfect mug made on a pottery wheel. Handmade Mugs have a beautiful "Perfectly Un-Perfect" vibe too it. The chunky/rough handmade look is what you want...it's made with love. SO go into this project with no pressure!

## STEP 1: Roll Out Clay

**Set-Up:** Put down your parchment paper "placemat". Spread out your tools. Fill up a small and large bowl with water. Get comfortable and let's begin!

**Tools:** Placemat, Clay, Rolling Pin

**Adding your Touch:** As your rolling out your clay, think about the thickness and size of the mug you want. Tall, Short, Wide...it's completely up to you!

**Tip:** Your mug will shrink up to 15% as it dries so keep that in mind while sizing and building.



image 1



image 2

**STEP 1.1** Start by grabbing your clay and "wedging it". To "wedge" clay bang it against your table and your hand to compress the clay and remove any air-pockets.

**STEP 1.2** Place the clay on the centre of your mat and begin rolling it out to be approx 1/2- 3/4 inch thick and in a rectangle shape. The thinner you roll it out the harder to make your mug. For your first time go thicker 1/2-3/4.

## STEP 2: Cut the Shape

**Set-Up:** No Additional.

**Tools:** Carving Knife, Rolling Pin, Towel or Napkin.

**Adding your Touch:** Here you can decide the size of your mug.

**Tip:** Cut longer than needed to start, you can always trim more off but not add more back. If this is your first time, I suggest not doing a very large mug. The bigger the mug, the harder to build.



image 3

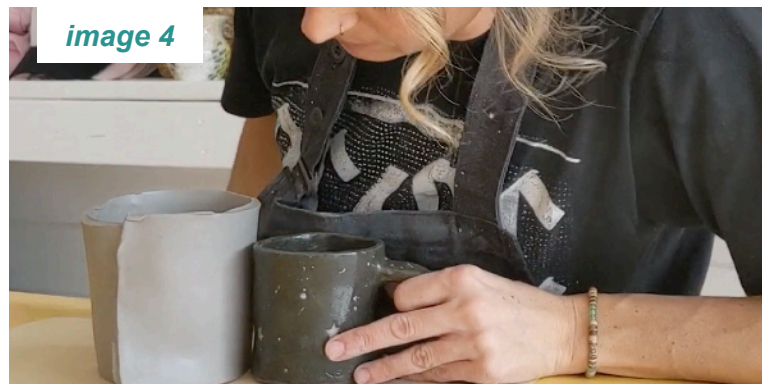


image 4

**STEP 2.1** Use the carving tool and rolling pin as a guide to cut out a rectangle shape that will be the mug walls. Get as straight as you can so it doesn't off-set your mug. You can always take more off, so start a little bigger. Take your extra clay and wedge into a pickle shape and cover it with a towel or napkin to keep it from drying out.

**STEP 2.2** Now, let's finalize the size of the mug. Pick-up your clay and position it like your mug will be. Check the size and cut clay if needed to make adjustment to the height and/or width of your mug. \*Remember: your mug will shrink 15%-20%. Always handle your clay with a light and soft touch, nothing but love for this piece of the earth.

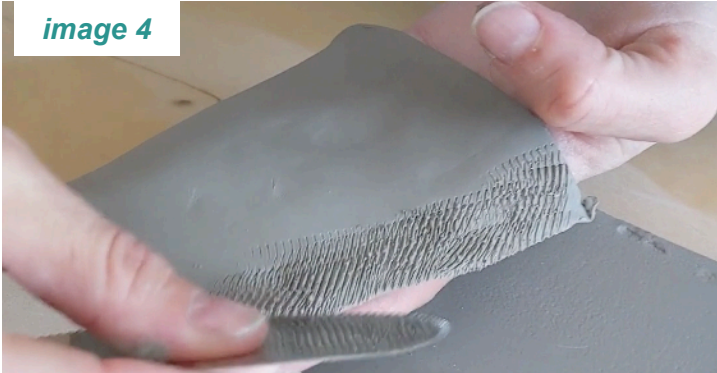
## STEP 3: Create Mug Cylinder

**Set-Up:** Create "Slip Water". Fill your small bowl with only 1-2 tsp. of water then take a pinch of clay and break it up with your fingers into the water and mix it around. Slip water can help act as an adhesive.

**Tools:** Scraping Tool, Small Bowl for Slip Water

**Adding your Touch:** Choose if you like having a seam visible or blended in.

**Tip:** Don't score too deep. Just scraping up the seam is enough to get a good bond.



**STEP 3.1** Lift up your clay and overlap the ends to mark where your 1/2 inch seam will be. Before applying pressure to connect the seam "score" the 1/2 inch seam to form a tight bond. [image 4] To "score" the seam use the teeth side of your scraping tool to rough up the sides that will attach.



**STEP 3.2** Before attaching, dab a very small amount of slip water to the scored area to help bind the seam. Now lightly pinch together the seam. If you like the look of a seam, you're all set. [image 5] If you don't want to see a seam you can smooth it out with your finger on the inside and outside of the mug cylinder.

## STEP 4: Pull the Handle

**Set-Up:** Let's reset a bit. Wipe down your placemat. You can use a very very little bit of water, but make sure your placemat is completely dry before using again. Also, make sure hands are dry before handling your clay again.

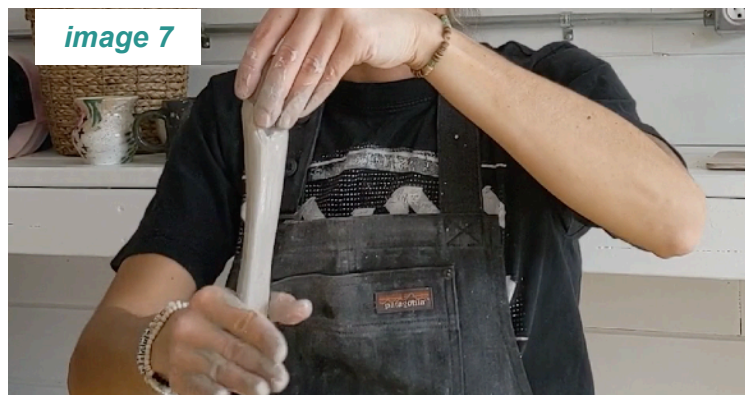
**Tools:** Big Bowl of Water for Cleaning/Washing, Small Bowl of Slip Water

**Adding your Touch:** Add an indent to your handle or any other texture you'd like.

**Tip:** Go very lightly. Many people break the clay at this step so start slow, pull lightly, and make sure your pulling hand is always wet so it doesn't stick and pull the clay apart. Take this step slow it can take up to 100 pulls.

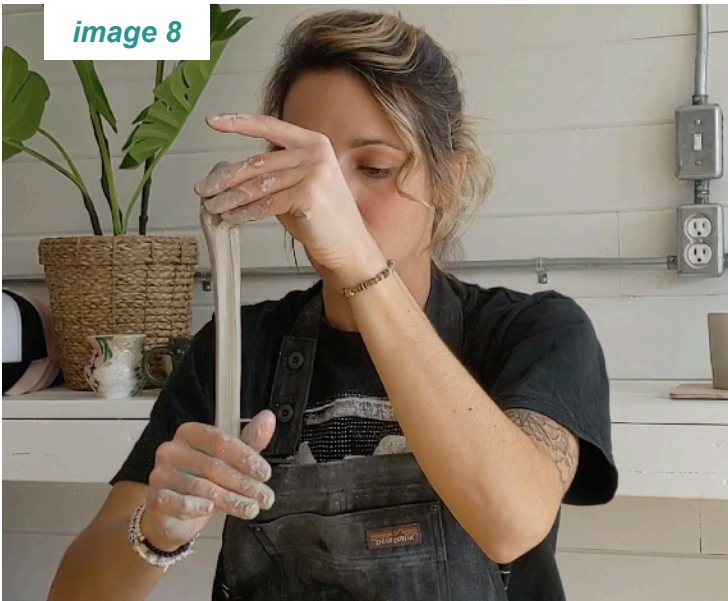


**STEP 4.1** Break off a "egg size" amount of your extra clay to build your handle with. Wedge this clay by banging and compressing it to remove any air-pockets. [image 6] Next, start rolling the clay on the table to create "pickle shape".



**STEP 4.2** Now with one hand hold the top of the "pickle", then lightly wet your other hand and do a milking motion to "pull the handle". Take this step slow it can take up to 100 pulls.

## STEP 4 Continued: Pull the Handle



**STEP 4.3** Once you have approx. 6-10 inches in length you can create any design of your handle (square, tube, indented, twisted, classic rectangle, etc.).



**STEP 4.4** Finally, we want to put our handle shape aside to dry a bit (15-20min.) before sizing it to our mug cylinder. You can shape and place your handle on the corner of your table in an arch shape, similar to how you will attach it to the cylinder of the mug.

## STEP 5: Build the Base

**Set-Up:** Wipe down your placemat and tools. You can use a very little bit of water, but make sure your placemat, tools, and hands are completely dry before touching clay again.

**Tools:** Carving Knife, Scraping Tool, Paint Brush, Sponge, Small Bowl of "Slip" Water

**Adding your Touch:** Once done building you can carve your name onto bottom of mug.

**Tip:** I recommend making your base thicker than your mug cylinder.



**STEP 5.1** Grab your extra clay and "wedge it" to remove air-pockets. Place down your clay and roll it out. Make sure to flip and roll each side. [\[image 10\]](#) Create a circular shape with a diameter approx. 3-4 inches wider than your mug cylinder diameter.



**STEP 5.1** Next, grab your cylinder and place it on top of your bottom piece. [\[image 11\]](#) Now you can take your knife tool and trace/cut out your mug base. You will want to cut it on a slight angle going into the centre of your mug. Take your time, don't rush any steps here today.

## STEP 5 Continued: Build the Base

image 12



**STEP 5.3** Wrap up your extra clay so it does not dry out. Remove the cylinder from the base and score around the perimeter of your base + bottom of mug cylinder [image 12]. Add a very very small amount of slip water, then attach the cylinder and base pieces together.

image 13



**STEP 5.4** Remove the seam by lightly massaging the clay together. Flip your mug to clean up and remove the seam on the inside of your mug. You can use a paintbrush and/or your finger. This is a good time to fine tune and clean-up your mug. Use your sponge "super lightly damp" to give your mug a good once-over clean-up.

## STEP 6: Attach Handle

**Set-Up:** Optional "Reset"... Wipe down your placemat. You can use a very very little bit of water, but make sure your place mat is completely dry before using again. Make sure hands are dry before handling your clay again.

**Tools:** Scraping Tool, Carving Knife, Small Bowl of "slip" Water

**Adding your Touch:** There are lots of different styles for connecting your handle. Google mug handles if you'd like to get inspired!

**Tip:** If you have a bigger handle, it may droop. No problem, just place something under it to hold/support it until it dries.

image 14



**STEP 6.1** Place your handle up to the mug and determine if it's the right size you want for your handle. Think about who its for and how big their hand is.

image 15



**STEP 6.2** Next, if needed, lay the handle out on your mat and can cut the handle to size. Remember! Don't take too much off -> Better to cut less, re-evaluate, then cut more if needed. Once all is sized, place your handle up to your mug cylinder and lightly mark the cylinder with your scraping tool where the handle will connect with cylinder.

## STEP 6 Continued: Attach Handle

image 16



**STEP 6.2** Next, score the ends of the handle and the points on your cylinder you marked where the handle will connect. You can dab a bit of slip water before connecting.

image 17



**STEP 6.2** Once your handle is on you can now push with your finger from inside the mug to get some good pressure connecting the handle. Now, if you'd like you can remove the handle seams by lightly massaging the clay together using your fingers and/or brush tool, then your sponge.

## STEP 7: Dry Time (24 hours)

**Set-Up:** None.

**Tools:** Plastic Bag

**Tip:** If you have a bigger handle, it may droop. No problem, just place something under it to hold it until it dries. You can cover your mug with a plastic bag to let it dry slowly. This will reduce chances of any small cracks in the handle.

image 18



**STEP 7.1** Now feel your mug out, if the bottom doesn't seem strong enough to let it dry upside down for an hour or so then let it dry right side up. I like to let it dry upside down for an hour to let the handle have a little time with gravity. After an hour flip right side up. Cover with a plastic bag lightly, not completely sealed - just drape overtop.

image 19



**STEP 7.2** Once dry it's time to paint OR if you chose to have your mug natural clay colour with a glaze you can pack up your mug and drop-off to us to be fired and glazed in the kiln. If you are painting follow the instructions in Step 9 and/or the Painting Video @ <https://sketchartworkshop.com/tutorials/>

## STEP 8: OPTIONAL BONUS! Extra Clay

**Set-Up:** Optional "Reset"... Wipe down your placemat. You can use a very very little bit of water, but make sure your placemat is completely dry before using again. Make sure hands are dry before handling your clay again.

**Tools:** Optional

**Adding your Touch:** Hit up Pinterest for "ceramics hand building" inspiration!!

**Tip:** I like making cute little mushrooms. Sometimes I add a pinhole for an incense stick.

**Instructions:** Have fun, be free, make anything you want! Just remember if attaching any pieces together you will need to score them and dab a bit of slip water like you did with your handle. Besides that, no rules or judgement here ;)



## STEP 9: Painting

**Set-Up:** Now that your clay is completely dry let's set-up again. Spread out your paint, brushes, a paper towel or rag, and fill up a small bowl with water. You can use a plate, piece of cardboard, or really any flat surface too paint on. This paint is extremely washable and drain safe :). Get comfortable and let's paint

**Important Note:** DO NOT paint the bottom of your mug - leave it natural clay. If painted it will get stuck to the kiln when firing. ONLY use paint provided. It's special for pottery and firing in the kiln.

**Tools:** Placemat (optional), Paint, Paint Brushes, Paper Towel or Rag, Small Bowl of Water.

**Adding your Touch:** Get totally creative, have fun and let loose.

**Tips:**

- Use 2-3 coats of paint on areas you want it to be solid or less coats for depth.
- I always leave the inside its natural colour as it's hard to get even paint in
- You can leave the natural clay and just add details like flowers, abstract shapes, geometric lines...etc. Try patterns using dots, lines, dashes to create designs.
- You can try adding a bit of water to your brush as I did in the video and give your paint a water colour effect.

