

## *Slab Building*



Slabs can be rolled out using different techniques. On a slab roller, the clay will be rolled uniformly at the desired thickness.

When using a rolling pin, a pair of same diameter wooden dowels can be placed on the table on both sides (distant between the dowels will be shorter than the length of the rolling pin) of the clay to ensure a uniform thickness. While rolling out with a rolling pin, the clay should be rotated and flipped between each roll. This will allow the slab to stretch out evenly and prevent it from sticking to the table.

If allowed to dry a little, slabs are great for building geometric forms, pieces that require precise edges, and also for carving low relief decoration. If a flat slab is desired, it is important to let the slab dry slowly. If dried too fast, the corner will dry first and curl up. Place the rolled slab on a flat surface and wrap loosely with plastic. Another way to ensure a flat slab is to place the slab between two level surfaces while it sets up. If you want to work say with a curved slab, cut the slab to the shape and size you want, then curve to the desired shape. Set up the piece curved to dry with a piece of plastic loosely covered.

It is important to monitor hardness of your slab. Once it becomes bone dry, it cannot be worked with anymore. If certain parts are getting too dry, you can spray it with water and wrap it tighter with plastic to allow it to rehydrate. You want to make sure that piece is drying evenly to prevent warping.

When attaching slabs, slip and scoring is necessary. A coil can be placed and smoothed on the inner seam to ensure a proper joint, but before you add the coil, make sure you score and slip the slab.



Slabs can be used to create a wide variety of sculptures. Ideal for large geometric forms, but can be utilized while creating large vessels and sculptures. It is also great for doing a relief sculpture.