Making a Beaker folk clay coil pot

Equipment

- clay
- clay tools
- tools such as pen tops, screws and pencils
- 5 cm round cutter
- pot of water (200 ml)
- clay board



Method

1. Mix a pinch of clay into the pot of water to make a runny 'slip'.
2. Squeeze a plum-sized ball of clay in your hands until it is warm and soft.
3. Roll out the clay to a thickness of 1 cm and use the cutter to cut out a circle. This will be the base of the pot.
4. Squeeze and roll another ball of clay into a sausage shape about the width of your thumb.
5. Make scratch marks all around the edge of the base with a clay tool and rub a little slip over the scratch marks.
6. Add scratch marks and slip all along the bottom of the rolled clay. These scratch marks will help the rolled clay stick to the base.
7. Press the rolled clay around the edge of the base to make the first coil. Cut off any spare clay.
8. Use a little slip to smooth and seal the joins between the coil and the base.
9. Continue to add coils, squeezing and rolling more balls of clay, as necessary. To widen the pot, stick a new coil to the outside edge of the previous one. To narrow the pot, stick a new coil to the inside edge of the previous one. Remember to use scratch marks and slip to join the coils and more slip to smooth and seal any joins.
10. When the pot is finished, create repeated patterns, using the tools, in the style of Beaker pottery.

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