Cup

Requirements: Must have a handle that has been pulled

Hint: I can tell if you just roll out a coil or a slab for your handle (no it is not easy and it may take more than one try)

1. Wedge clay
2. Form it into a ball
3. Throw it on the wheel
4. Add water
5. The first time your touch your clay push straight down
   1. never touch your clay if it is not moving
   2. If you feel your hands start to stick add more water
   3. Ease off pressure before taking your hands off our natural instinct is to push away
6. Center your clay
   1. Left hand goes down directly next to your clay like a karate chop
   2. Right hand goes down behind your clay with the butt of your hand on the wheel (your fingers should be pointing to the ceiling)
   3. You’re the fingers of your right hand curl over your left hand creating a solid gap free connection with your clay
   4. Squeeze your hands together, do not let your arms move! Find something to lock them into (tray, legs, sides)
   5. Check if your clay is centered by using a needle tool (lightly drag over surface) if it touches all the way around at the top middle and bottom you are centered
7. Make a divot in the top of your mound about a ¼ inch down using your first two fingers or your thumbs together
8. Reimburse the top (pie symbol)
9. Fill your divot with water
10. Punch your hole until your about ¼ inch from the bottom (you can stop your wheel and use a needle tool to check) using your first two fingers together
11. Reimburse the top (pie symbol)
12. Fill hole with water
13. Open by putting your first two fingers together and pulling straight towards you all the way at the bottom of your hole with very even pressure (keep in mind what your making cups are tall and skinny bowls are usually short and fat)
14. At this point you no longer want water in your pot so use your sponge to absorb the water out
15. Raise until your are no thicker than ¼ inch all the way through your pot
    1. One hand inside one hand outside with the sponge
    2. You raise using your fingertips, you are pulling the clay from the bottom of your pot to the top
    3. Lock your fingers in and make a divot at the bottom of your pot right on the wheel itself (this is the only time your are squeezing together with your fingers)
    4. Once you have your divot lock your hands in with your fingertips in the divot and pull very slowly straight up your pot (you have to go as slow as your wheel is going or you will get a twist and unevenness to your pot)
    5. After each pass at raising you need to reimburse your top
16. Shape
    1. You are no longer pushing together and pulling up your now guiding your clay one way or the other
    2. To move in push in with your outside hand (inside hand is more of a guide so you don’t push a hole straight through your pot)
    3. To move out push out with your inside hand (other hand is a guide)
    4. When you shape you should start at the bottom of your pot and move up slowly (you can only go as fast as your wheel is spinning)
    5. After each pass reimburse the top (pie symbol)
17. When your pot is complete you need to clean off your wheel dump your buckets in the back room in the recycling bin water and all (remove any tools first)
18. Blow dry your pot until it turns dark gray in color and is no longer tacky when you touch the surface.
19. Cut it off using a wire cutter
20. When you pick up your pot lift from the bottom with the soft outside edge of your hand not your fingertips
21. After your project is leather hard you can attach a handle by slipping and scoring

Pulling a handle

You will need a bucket of water and a piece of wood

1. Wedge your clay
2. Form it into a carrot (fatter on one end)
3. Hold your clay by the fatter part and dip your hand in your bucket
4. Pull you hand from top to bottom using lots of water, water is your friend. Don’t forget to apply light pressure
5. Continue to do this until you have your desired thickness
6. If you want a round handle pull rounded
7. If you would like a flat handle put slightly more pressure flattening out the sphere into a square
8. When your handle is pulled place the fat end down on your piece of wood, curl the handle and stick it to itself in your desired shape
9. Once it is leather hard you can cut your handle to size and slip and score it onto your pot

Storage

Remember while working day to day you need to make sure you cover your pots with damp paper towels and plastic bags tightly to prevent your projects from drying out.

Finish product

Keep your clay covered with a plastic bag allowing a small amount of air to reach it, we want our pots to dry out slowly