

DIY GUIDE: Make A Clay Pot



K.G. Subramanyan was an artist from Kerala who was interested in exploring a post-Independent Indian identity through art. A writer, scholar, teacher and art historian, Subramanyan also employed a range of mediums and styles in his art.



For sometime, he experimented with clay and made terracotta (or fired clay) panels such as this one.

One could play with the panels and create different visuals just by moving them about – somewhat like using the same lego blocks to create an infinite number of things, just by changing the arrangement of the blocks!

And fascinatingly, Subramanyan made these panels not on a potter's wheel but with bare hands!

How about making your own clay sculpture, inspired by K. G. Subramanyan?

MAKE YOUR OWN CLAY POT!

Coiling and pinching are two of the simplest methods in pottery, and using these you can create clay items only with your fingers!

As their names suggest: **pinching** involves pinching the clay, that is pressing the clay and shaping it with the help of fingers, especially the thumb. And **coiling** involves creating coils or loops with the clay, and has been used for centuries across the world in pottery traditions as a method to create solid forms by layering or stacking coils of clay one on top of the other.

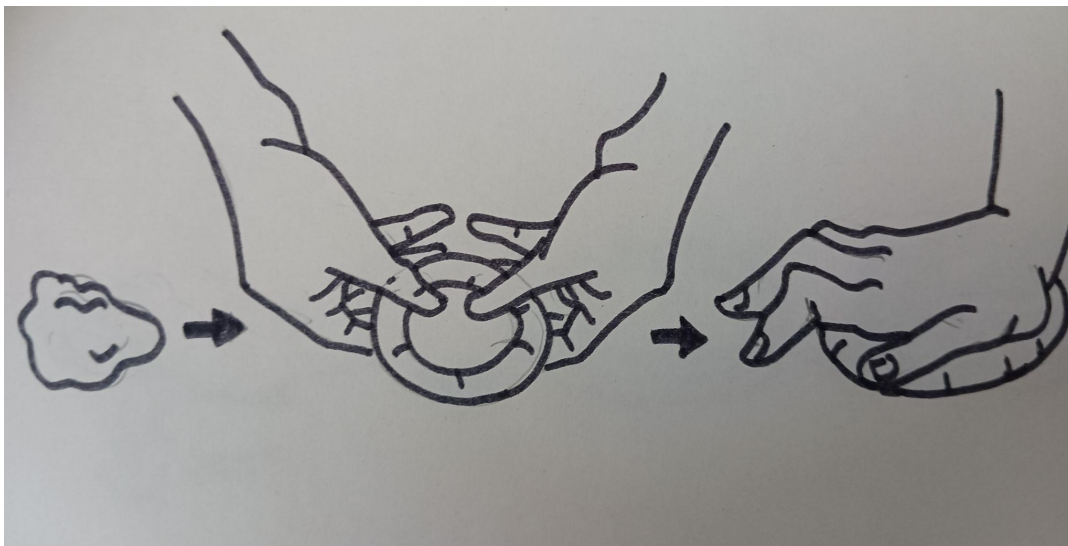
All you need for this project are **clay** (air dry clay or play-doh) and **your hands**!

Step 1:

First, knead the clay to make it more malleable. You will need to put a lot of pressure on it, and can even sprinkle some water on it if it's too dry.

Step 2:

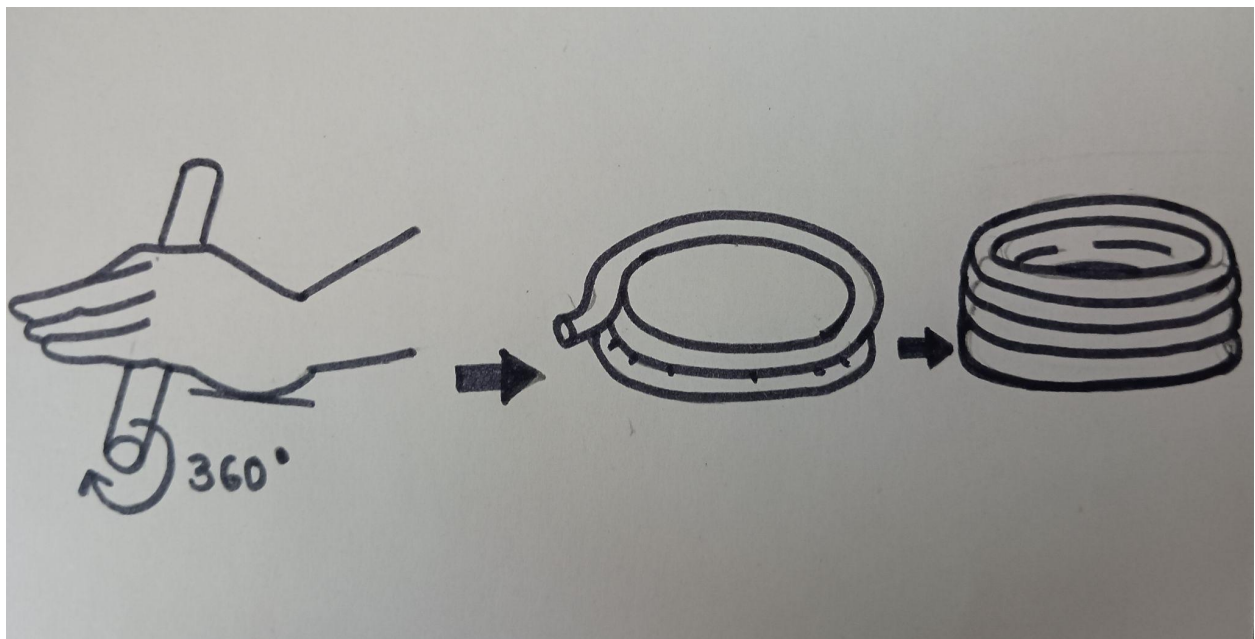
Next, split the clay in half and roll one half into a ball. Flatten it to form a base. Set the base aside, and divide the rest of the clay into four smaller balls.



Step 3:

Now time to start rolling each ball into a coil. Once you have one coil, score* the base and the coil, add some more water to both parts and attach the coil to the base. Keep adding the coils the same way, one on top of the other.

*To score a pot or piece of clay means to scratch hatch marks on it as part of joining clay pieces together. This can be done using a blunt knife, a scalpel or even a closed pen. Take the help of an adult to do this part, if needed.



Step 4:

Make sure that you also keep pressing around the coil as you keep piling one over the other. Once done, air dry the clay and your clay pot is ready!

What will you use it for?



Don't forget to take photographs of your creations and DM it to us on Instagram @mapbangalore. You can also email them to us at education@map-india.org