How to Use the Textured Bowl Templates

Roll out your clay to about 5-6 mm and compress both sides. If your clay is very wet, dust with a little cornflour. Lay your clay on the template, then use a pony roller or rolling pin to roll the clay into the texture. It is best to roll from the widest side to the widest side, not from the short side to the short side. Roll quite firmly but not until the texture comes through the clay. It may take a few tries to get used to the amount of pressure needed. Once you have rolled the clay, smooth the back with a rib. Gently peel back the clay starting from one short end, trying not to distort the pattern as you go.

Lay your clay patterned side up on a board, and cut around the template. On the short ends, bevel one end from the top, and one from underneath as indicated on the template. Score and slip the bevelled edges, and join them. Smooth the join with a rib inside and out. Make sure you have this piece upside down, and score and slip the bottom. Turn the bottom piece pattern side down, and score and slip the edge. Join the bottom to the body of the bowl. Make sure it seals well. Tidy the outside seam with a rib. Turn the bowl over and make sure the inside seam is well sealed. Add a coil and blended in well.

Turn the bowl over. The next step is much easier if you have a banding wheel. Using a damp rubber rib, “belly” out the side of the bowl by cupping one hand against the outside of the bowl, and using a sweeping motion with the rib, gently work around the bowl to give the side of the bowl a curved shape. You may need to go around several times to get the shape you desire. Make sure the bowl is symmetrical and round.

When you are happy with the shape, neaten the top edge.

Cover the bowl with plastic for the first three or four days until leather hard.