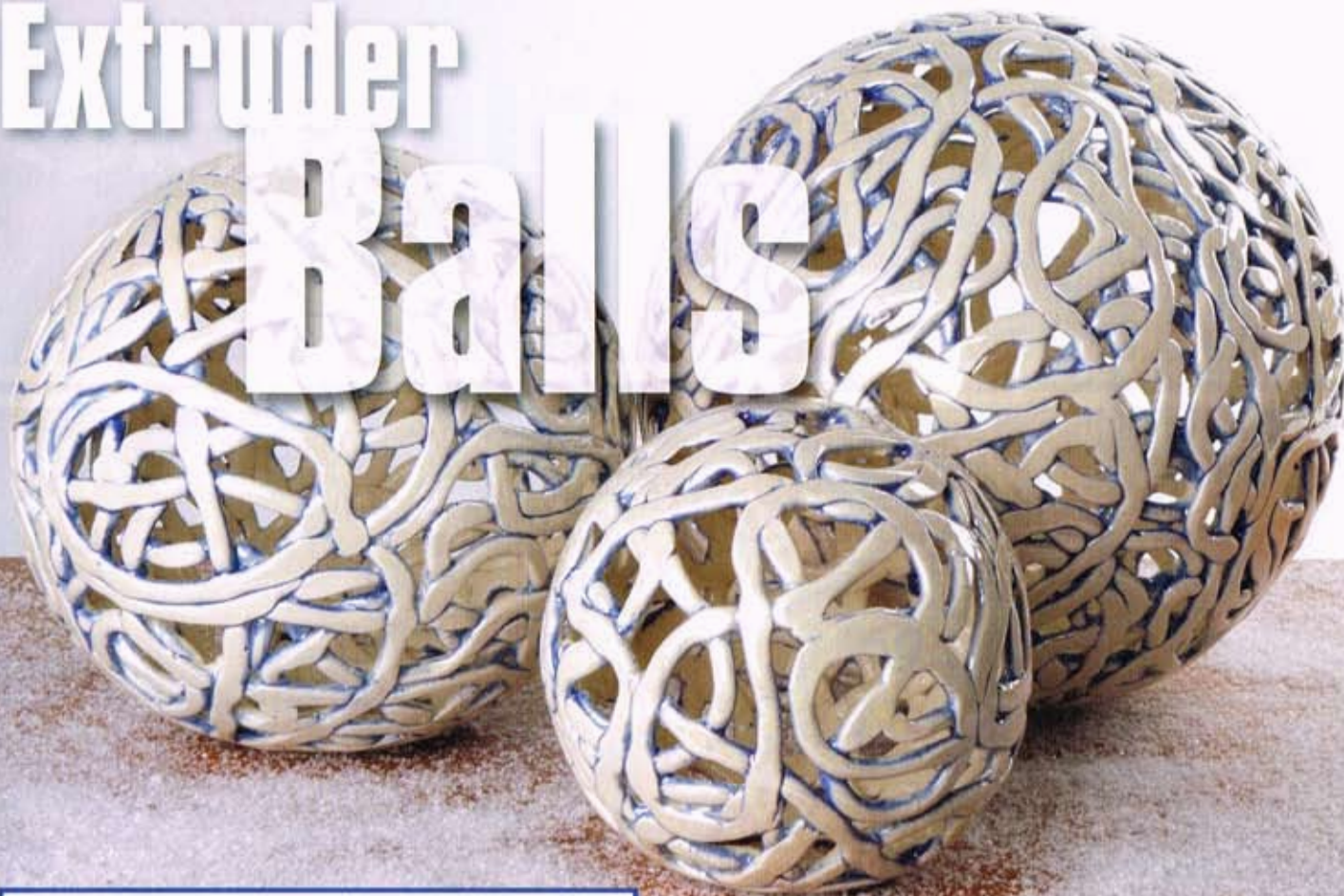


# Extruder Balls



Above: Dark Blue was used to accent these balls.  
Left: These balls were completed using the Raku firing technique detailed later in this special clay puzzling section.



**Step 1** Roll coils by hand or use an extruder to make narrow strands of clay. (Follow the instructions with your extruder or follow the images with this technique.)

**Step 2** Randomly place the coils in each half of the Puzzler Mold, going right up to the edge (where the mold halves will meet). Do not go past the edge.

**Step 3** Press over the clay with a towel to compress all of the pieces together. As long as the clay is moist and it's pressed before it gets too dry you do not need to use any slip or do any scoring.

**Step 4** Create another long coil and create loops going up past the edge of the mold (on one half only). The loops should attach to the clay coils already in the mold and go up around an inch. Don't go too high with the loops because they will become top heavy and break off in the next step.

**Step 5** Gently bend the coils in slightly so when the mold halves are placed together, the coils won't get caught between the parts.



## CLAY

### Lesson Plan

#### Objectives

- Work with clay
- Roll coils or use extruder
- Fired colors

#### Materials

##### Clay: by ClayPuzzling.com

Low-Fire White

Low-Fire Red

##### Bisque Puzzler Mold: by ClayPuzzling.com

BP307 Large Ball

BP308 Medium Ball

BP309 Small Ball

BP304 Extra-Large Globe

BP301 Short Wide Vase

BP314 Large Slender Vase

##### Colors: Your Choice of Manufacturer

(Bisque Stroke Colors)

Purple

Orange

Dark Blue

Red

Green

Clear Glaze

Optional: Mother of Pearl

##### Miscellaneous:

Assorted Brushes

Sponge

Towel

Newspaper

Industrial Hand Extruder (by ClayPuzzling.com)

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**Step 6** Place the two mold halves together and wrap with the Velcro strap to secure the parts.

**Step 7** Use a sponge taped to the end of a stick or dowel to reach inside the mold and press the coils so they attach to the opposite side.

**Step 8** Remove the Velcro strap and try removing the top half of the mold. If it sticks, allow it to set a little longer. When the balls are firm enough to stand on their own, remove them from the mold and place on several layers of newspaper and allow to dry.

**Step 9** Once the piece is completely dry, fire to cone 04.

**Step 10** Apply one coat of the desired color to each ball. Allow the colors to dry and gently wipe them back with a



These extruder vases were done using the same process.

damp sponge. For added color, use an old toothbrush or stiff fan brush to splatter colors over the balls. The red balls were splattered with green.

**Step 11** Apply two coats of clear to each ball or dip in a clear dipping glaze.

**Step 12** Fire to cone 06.

**Step 13** Apply one coat of Mother of Pearl in a swirling motion (to give best result). The Mother of Pearl will look streaky at this point. A little goes a long way. Make sure you use a new, soft brush dedicated to this product. Using a brush contaminated from use with other products can cause unsatisfactory results.

**Step 14** Fire to cone 022.

#### What did you learn with this project?

- You can press moist clay into bisque molds and the clay will release.
- Make clay coils by hand or with the use of a clay extruder.
- Accent details and designs on clay surfaces by applying color and wiping back with a damp sponge. The colors should remain in the crevices and details.
- Mother of Pearl is an overglaze that gives an iridescent finish. *FA*

