

## Project 3 Bowls

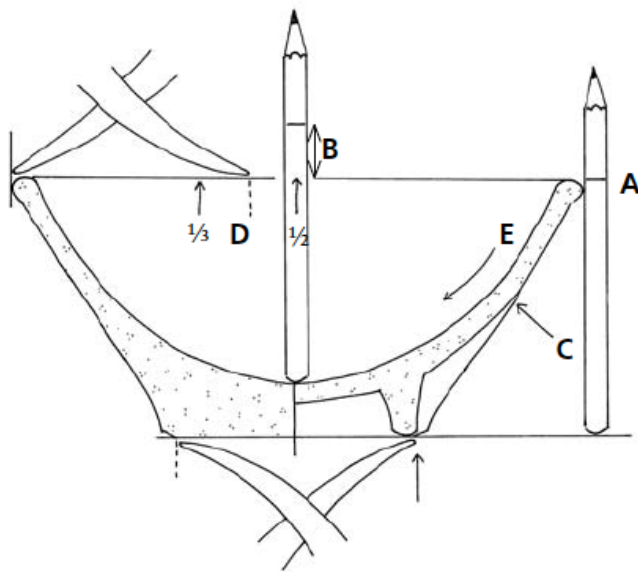
Project: Create bowls

1. Start with 4-5 pounds of clay.
2. Remember to make round bottom bowls. (demo in class)
3. Make sure to leave at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch of clay at the bottom to trim the foot.
4. When throwing leave extra clay at the sides  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way up to support the walls of the bowl so they do not slump or fold over when throwing.
5. Remove excess clay from the base of the cylinder before removing it from the wheel.
6. When you can handle the clay but before the clay is leather hard trim the foot.  
(See illustrations below)
7. Once the clay is leather hard, smooth any marks with a rib or sponge.

### Planning a Trimmed Foot Ring on a Bowl

Before you begin trimming, it is helpful to make a few measurements and marks on the form as a guide to where and how much to turn.

Set the bowl upright on a flat surface and hold a pencil or stick upright against the rim. Mark the rim height either with a pen or with your finger (see A in illustration at right) on the pencil. Stand the pencil in the center of the bowl, and line up the near and far rims by eye. The difference between the mark and the rim gives you the base thickness at its thinnest point (B).



**Mark the base and outer wall of your bowl for trimming away excess clay to create the turning a foot-ring.**

Look down the line of the wall from above the rim. Run a finger and thumb down either side of the wall to where it begins to thicken and mark that point (C).

The diameter of the foot-ring will vary according to the shape, width, and style of the bowl, but as a rough guide, it will be between one-third and one-half of the rim's diameter. Use a pair of calipers to measure this approximately (D). When you begin turning, with the wheel at a medium pace, this caliper measurement indicates the foot-ring width.

Lastly, and most importantly, study the curve and line of the bowl's interior (E). You are aiming to reflect this in the trimming and you should keep it in your mind's eye throughout the process.

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### Common Trimming Faults

Problems generally arise from trying to turn pots while the clay is in an inappropriate condition. If it is too soft, the process will cause the form to distort badly. If too dry, the pots will tend to be dislodged by the force needed to cut into the clay, ending up cracked or spoiled.

A classic example is illustrated below: the curve of the outside wall (A) does not follow the line of the interior. This creates an uneven thickness (B) and a weak point (C), where the pot may be cut through or left so thin that it may crack or slump in the kiln. The thickness and weight of the foot-ring make it too square (D) and bulky (E) in relation to the bowl's size. Inside the foot-ring, the base has been trimmed too flat, again failing to follow the interior shape and causing a distortion (F).

