

**Juan Quezada's**  
**Steps to Making Pots:**  
by  
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1. Dig clay.
2. Purify clay: strain through cloth with water.
3. Make bat (mold) from plaster mixed with water poured into plastic bowl or rubber ball.
4. Work (wedge) air out of clay.
5. Pat out a flat tortilla (pancake).
6. Fold clay up into 4 corners and put into mold.
7. Flatten and press pancake tightly into plaster mold.
8. At an angle, cut off excess clay with a knife or the straight edge of a hacksaw blade.
9. Smooth inside of clay with a damp cloth or sponge.
10. Role a sausage to fit the inside edge of the pancake; join ends together.
11. Press sausage to adhere to the outside edge of the pancake, pinch clay from bottom up to top to make a vertical wall, smooth edge where sausage meets tortilla, smooth inside and outside of the pot with fingers.
12. Continue to build up walls by pressing from bottom turning and pressing.
13. Create shape in pot by pressing in or out on walls.
14. Scrape outside of pot with the serrated edge of a hacksaw blade, and then smooth outside of the pot with the dull edge.
15. Let pot dry to leather hard.
16. Remove pot from mold and use the hacksaw blade to scrape off the rough joint edge made by the top of the mold.
17. Press in designs; add handles, figures, and spouts; scratch name on the bottom; use very little water.
18. Let harden to bone dry while sitting on a flat plaster slab.
19. Balance the pot, and flatten the bottom by scraping with a blade.
20. Sand pot with rough #100 sandpaper, then use fine # 220 to smooth clay pot and remove all tool and hand marks.

21. Pour baby or mineral oil on the bottom of pot and then over entire surface.
22. Rub pot with hands until oil is absorbed into the clay.
23. Pass a damp cloth, only once, over the entire pot.
24. Stone burnish the surface of the pot until shiny.
25. Make a paint brush from 6 to 12 strands of 2 inch long child's hair; tie hairs to a piece of wood by wrapping a thread around the hairs and the stick; trim hair ends.
26. Paint glaze (mixed minerals, clay, and water) onto the pot. Fill in large areas of glaze with camel hair brushes.
28. Lightly pat baby oil over entire painted pot and let dry.
29. First, stone burnish lightly the painted lines and areas, then burnish the entire pot to a high shine; a seed will also burnish.
30. Dry for a few days, then fire (cook) the pot in a kitchen oven for several hours. (No silica in glaze so pot won't stick to oven.) Bring the oven temperature up slowly. (50 F per 0.5 hour).
31. Move the pot to an outside area and place it on a bed of broken pots and/or bricks with steel pins (stilts) or a rack; place a small amount of kindling wood under the pot, and add gray ash around the bottom if a whiter white is desired.
32. Cover pot with a Mexican terra cotta flowerpot; cover the drain hole with a piece of fired clay. (U.S. Pots won't work). Galvanized tub will also work.
33. For true colors (oxidation fire) be sure the flowerpot or tub is resting on bricks or stilts about 2 inches from the ground. For black ware (reduction fire) have the pot sealed to the ground with some sand and the hole sealed.
34. Place cottonwood bark that has been broken into small chips on the top of the flowerpot, then cover the entire pot with vertical pieces of wood. Tie wire around wood to hold it in place.
35. Pour gasoline over wood and use wads of toilet paper to start fire. Light the end of a yard of toilet paper; drag it around the wood to spread the flames evenly.
36. Burn about 45 minutes until all wood is ash.
37. Use a long pole and a rake to evenly remove wire and burnt wood.
38. Cool for 20 minutes to one hour. (An abrupt change in temperature will crack the pot.)

39. Hold with two pieces of wood or use gloves to remove warm flowerpot or tub.
40. If doing several firings, place handle of a spoon into fired pot's opening to remove pot from firing (kiln) area; otherwise, leave until completely cool.
41. Place fired pot onto a wooden, ceramic, or aluminum foil covered surface. (Concrete will break the pot and dirt will stick to the pot).
42. Let pot cool, dust off, and show off!
43. Wrap pot in plastic to transport; paper will scratch the pot.
44. If pot has a round bottom, place pot on a ceramic, acrylic, or a non-scratching ring; put sand into a plastic bag inside the pot to weigh it down and to keep it from tipping over.