

Wedging

School Name _____

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____

Date ____/____/20____

Per. ____

fill in the blanks with the following words:

air pockets
consistency
ovoid

pressure
rhythm
warping

wheel

Clay can be prospected, refined and mixed, or a clay body can be compounded from individual raw materials. A clay body may be made by adding water to a dry mixture and blended in an industrial dough mixer, in a pug mill, or by hand. Preparation by hand involves a process called wedging to remove _____ and make the clay homogeneous.

Preparing clay for working may be described as kneading it like bread, or cutting slices and slapping the clay back together. But **spiral wedging**¹ is the most effective way of getting air out of clay. In spiral wedging, the clay is only pivoted, never lifted:

- 1) Pat a ball of clay into an _____ or egg shape.
- 2) Stand the clay on one end, slanted to one side.
- 3) One hand begins the wedging motion by pushing down into the clay and quickly releasing _____.
- 4) The other hand lifts the clay on its end and turns about a quarter circle.
- 5) The first hand pushes down into the clay again.
- 6) Lift and turn the clay again: push down, pivot, push down, pivot, keeping a steady _____ until you see the clay is in good condition.

The purpose of wedging is to remove air pockets or bubbles and achieve homogeneous _____. This process is also excellent for reclaiming clay – and avoiding the cost of buying new clay. Wedging is also useful for addressing prepared clay that usually comes in 25-pound bags. Such clay has been sitting and become stiff - and may need to “wake up” before being used on the potters _____.

Att: Uniform density or homogeneity keeps pottery from _____ or cracking as it dries.

1 AKA: Chrysanthemum wedging