

## Tips and Tricks offered at the August 2017 General Meeting and After.

### Idea to store stamps

Take a piece of 1" insulation board and drill holes in it to accommodate all your stamps. The size will vary depending on the number of stamps you have. Make rows of holes some smaller than others to fit the handles on your stamps. Then glued another piece of insulation board to the bottom. And it's done. All your stamps can be grouped by type and can be seen at a glance. Also, it is very light weight so it's easy to move around.



Glue a button on to a cork to make a stamp

Use Sculpey clay to make a mold out of a button

Use a used printer's blanket in a slab roller to eliminate marks on the clay

Use a water heater pan for a wheel water and clay collector

Use a Q-tip to remove glaze from creases after spraying

If have limited space, use pages from old phone book to stack waxed and glazed pieces together

Use a banding wheel and foam paint brushes to wax bottoms of pieces, wax will not drip from foam brush

Use wet carpet to remove glaze from pottery bottoms instead of waxing

Use a large cardboard box as a shield around wheel to keep clay shavings from flying around

When trimming pottery on a potter's wheel: Drape a plastic Dollar Store table cloth from a counter or small adjustable table on each side of your pottery wheel around and under the back side of your wheel to catch the trimmings. Weight down the cloth with a heavy bowl or tool holder. Use a small, adjustable height folding tables (from BiMart or Costco) on both sides of the wheel. Make both about 6-12 inches higher than the wheel, and this works great to elevate the cloth behind the wheel to catch the trimmings. Wrap the cloth clear around the wheel to cover your lap. When done trimming, simply gather up the cloth (which has caught all the trimmings) shake all the trimmings together and empty into a recycling container.

Put mirror on wheel table to be able to see back of pot

While on the wheel use a brick under foot to raise leg to rest elbow on

Use sponges instead of wheel pan to collect water while throwing on wheel

Stand while throwing

Wrap clay with plastic food wrap to keep inside of extruder clean when extruding clay

When sculpting a large piece poke many holes all the way through the piece to allow air to escape, then cover holes with clay.

The following tips came after the meeting from Ariel Rose

Dollar store tools:

1. scooper-scraper - is a culinary tool I use allot in the kitchen. it has a short ruler inscribed on the edge. Is great for lifting small pieces, or making vertical cuts, or smoothing small slabs. Also good for scraping the table to clean up. All for \$1 !

2. Flexible cutting boards. Use them to stack and carry slabs home from the studio. One side is slightly textured, so the moist slab clings less. Use one under your work to rotate your piece and collect the debris for easy dumping, as the cutting board folds easily into a U.

For mishima or sgraffito, apply a thin coating of wax to the surface before carving. If done on a flat piece, a bisque weight may be needed on the unwaxed side to prevent warping as it dries.