



A cylindrical ball of clay is opened with the thumb. Using up to an 8-pound ball of clay for a pinch pot has become second nature.



The upper walls are thinned by pushing with the thumb from the inside, while supporting the outside with the outer hand.



The bottom is thinned by pushing with the fingers or knuckles of the inner hand toward the outer (support) hand.



The wall thickness is evened (bottom to rim) by rhythmical paddling while slowly rotating the form with the inside hand.



After the clay has hardened somewhat, the lower wall is stretched more, reserving a small amount of clay at the bottom.



Once the clay has firmed up again, the reserve at the bottom is stretched by stroking in the opposite direction.



Then, the form is inverted and paddled to compress the clay and refine the contour of the bottom.



When the bottom is firm, the form is supported in a padded bowl, and paddling of the upper wall is begun.



Subsequent passes refine the curve of the shoulder; eventually, the paddle is used simply to