

Student Materials and tools list for workshops

I am going to teach you from the very basics I know and then push (your) the limits!

- This material list is designed for students that may also fire their pots on the premise. **THAT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE, so be aware that it all depends on the particular circumstances.**
- These tools are readily available everywhere in the USA. If you are from a different country and do not have access to these tools, e-mail me, so that we can find alternatives for you.
- Materials listed with a * is optional or used for glazing.
- There is no need to rush to get all these things on the material list if you do not have it (it may become expensive to collect all at once!), but these are bought and handmade tools I use. It gives me the crisp edges in my porcelain and is not always found in a regular pottery studio. If you know about it, then you have the option to come prepared or get familiarized with it for future purchases.

1. Since we are doing press molds too, I would like for each one of you to create one set of twin (1 x 2) “shells” from ANY WHITE clay (NOT necessarily porcelain) and bisque it. Same shape, same depth of about 1.5 -2 inches deep do **NOT** go deeper) and 5 - 7 inches (do **NOT** go wider) any direction.



It can be round or oval. No square or fancy shapes. That is a convex shape, with no foot. Make sure it is continuously round (organically) shaped on the inside; no sharp edges or curves or texture. The technique we will use is shown in plaster molds on my website under “workshops”. Examine the images above and if you are still unsure, e-mail me and I will see if I can describe it more.

2. Find the sharpest tools in your studio and make sure you bring them along. We’ll use this for dryer porcelain trimming and carving.
3. Thin rounded ribbon or wire loop tools that are blunt and used for clay modeling (available with Femo clays in your craft store)
4. *A small piece (**the size of a credit card**) off flexible flashing (it is a thin cut able stainless steel or aluminum sheet) from building materials or a regular metal kidney that you are willing to cut!



5. Metal kidneys and other ribs, the thinnest you have in your studio (not wooden ones)



6. Plastic (credit, gift or hotel key) cards.

7. Any tools from “mud tools”, especially their colored kidneys are “happy tools” in my studio.



2 x red - 3.5" x 1.75" <http://www.mudtools.com>

These tools are very American and a huge improvement on the old blue rubber kidneys, but if you have those available, 2 of them will do.

8. Sharp tools for carving, any of the ones you normally use; dental, to a sharp blade from a carpet knife. (Euclid and Xiem have some modeling tools that I love to use)

<http://www.euclids.com/Williams%20Tool.htm>

<http://www.bigceramicstore.com/Supplies/XiemTools.htm?gclid=CNfGp8KyzLMCFelDMgodxWgAxA#SSTools>



9. A surform blade (shredder tools) available from any ceramic store or hardware store (at the wood dept.) is a must when working with porcelain. Take good care of them by not allowing to stay wet. Treat with oil to limit rusting. You do not need the handle, so if the blade is available for a refill, you can only buy that. It is a must in my studio.



10. *I found the best way to keep my pots damp is in plastic buckets with lids that seal. They do not have to be large. If you think you can carry 2 in your luggage that will cover your pots in full, you may have an advantage. I do not know what is available in the studio. Many studios have abundant regular buckets, without lids.



11. Any of your regular tools, sponges, wooden sticks (with sharp point) etc.



12. *I use different sanding pads at different stages, all finer ones; starting with 3M SANDING SPONGES or 3M Pro-Pad PRPD-150 Sanding Sponge. I finish with a diamond sanding pad:



3M 6002J Diamond Hand Pads - 2-1/4 x 3-3/4. 1800 grit hand pad. (this one is expensive, but last for many years)



<http://www.amazon.com/3M-6002J-Diamond-Hand-Pads/dp/B004R4KUU0>

13. A 1/4inch foam bat attached to a bat that fits on the wheel.

14. Watercolor brushes for water etching.



15. *Round* sponge for throwing, flat sponge on a stick preferably without painted handle(craft sizes at Hobby Lobby)



16. Fishing line or wire (or other soft strong line) with button ends (for cutting clay)

17. Emery board nail file & a fine regular metal hand file.

18. Soft Charcoal pencil (4b)

19. *Slabmat: http://www.slabmat.com/Shop_for_SlabMat_tm_Pro.html#List_of_Products (is an alternative for canvas. It is optional – roll it smooth with slab mat or smooth canvas marks afterwards by hand) I have been informed that a very heavy interfacing will do the same as the slab mat. (it is the stiff lining that get sewn in between two pieces of fabric for example a collar and available at fabric stores. Look for one that does not iron on) I did not try it yet, but will do that and report back to you.

20. Soft plastic bags (clothing bags from department stores are perfect) to support pots while drying

21. *We will be spray glazing, if allowed (I hope they have equipment – I have my little Paasche spray gun) that I carry around with me), so bring your mask and eye protection! This is if time allows and you have something ready to be glazed.

22. *Mason stains of choice to color glaze only 2-3 t-spoons full will be used. *I normally use a base glaze recipe with mason (or other liquid) stains. Firing is at ^6

23. Bat with ¼ inch foam attached. (If you have difficulty to find this foam thickness, look at the car industry for the foam they use inside to pad the roof. Also, Bed Bath and beyond have

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thin foam sheets to pad vegetables with. *Beware of textured fabrics. You will trim on these bats and do not need uneven surfaces)*

Any questions from students: e-mail me at: porcelainbyAntoinette@gmail.com