

# CLAY STAMP PROJECTS

## 3 PROJECTS FOR CLASS: Clay shapes provided:

### #1 Ball Stamp

Carve design or lines onto whole surface



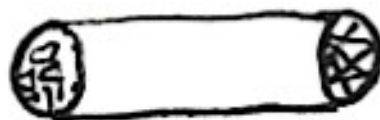
### #2 Cookie Stamp

Carve/press design or texture into  
(after fired, glue cork for handle – optional)



### #3 Cigar Stamp

Carve/press design into each end



## ADDITIONAL PROJECTS TO TRY ON YOUR OWN:

### Tire/Roller Stamp

Carve/press design into tire (tread) area



### Stamp with Applied Raised Design

Cut or roll pieces and attach to stamp  
(after fired, glue cork for handle – optional)



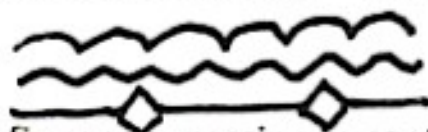
### Stamp with Carved Away for Raised Design

Cut or roll pieces and attach to stamp  
(after fired, glue cork for handle – optional)



### Disk Finger Roller

Flattened disk with finger depression in center  
Alter edges of roller in a couple places



**Tips:** Bevel edges so stamp shape doesn't show when used – make stamp perfect shape and smooth – make top of raised designs all same height – smooth/level stamp surface before adding design or texture – use magic water (not slip) to add.

## MAKING CLAY STAMPS

Pam Lake

### Different kinds of stamps

- \* Press – usually has a knob or handle and can be any shape
- \* Rollers – round “coil” with patterns all around it. Can be a disc with a hole in the middle to put a pencil or small stick to roll it.
- \* Round ball is great for making borders or seamless designs.
- \* Cigar – short cigar shaped with pattern on both ends – can put pattern on the length also
- \* Chop – your identification for your pottery. Can be your initials, name or a symbol or specific shape
- \* Flat – basically the same as a press stamp without a handle. Can be any shape – round, etc

### Clay – What kinds to use

B-Mix – white with very little grog and very smooth and easy to work with. Also easy to sand. Don't use clay that has a rough surface when fired. It won't give you sharp lines and when you use a sponge on it – it brings the grog to the surface making it rough.

Clay can be different stages of hardness – even dry

A good way to use wedged scrap clay that you have leftover from other hand-building projects.

### Patterns for stamps

- \* Patterns from other things such as a magnet you like, toys, signs, textures, coasters, fabric
- \* Other stamps
- \* Use your imagination and just start carving and see what you end up with.

### Making the stamp

- \* Get your clay smoothed out and in the basic shape you want it to be – smooth out any cracks
- \* Carve more in a “V” or “U” shape rather than square. It releases easier from the wet clay
- \* Decide if it needs a handle or not
- \* Make sure the carving side stays flat
- \* Transfer design with a water-based marker
- \* Remember that if you incise on the stamp it will be raised on the clay you're stamping. If raised on the stamp, it will be incised on the clay. This is something to consider when glazing.
- \* Keep checking the surface so that it remains flat
- \* Make sure on a raised stamp that you carve away the edges enough that they don't indent the clay
- \* Determine if the edge of the stamp will be part of the design
- \* Don't forget to put your chop/name on it someplace
- \* If your stamp has a “top and bottom” mark it on the side of your stamp
- \* Low-fire only

### Using the stamp

- \* Practice on scrap clay to see how hard to press on your piece
- \* Stamp clay before you cut out your piece. The pressure changes the shape of the clay
- \* Use even pressure on all sides of the stamp
- \* Wash stamps after using

