
Throwing Taster Days

Come and experience the pleasure of making your own stoneware pots on an electric potter's wheel.

Whether you've never touched clay before or you're looking to build on existing skills, these sessions are designed to suit you. With a maximum of two people in the studio at any one time, you'll receive plenty of individual guidance and support throughout the experience.

Day One

10.00am – 4.30pm *(with a lunch break)*

Please make arrangements for lunch, as food can't be eaten in the studio. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day.

We'll start by introducing the different types of clay used for throwing and show you how to prepare them correctly before moving on to the wheel.

Everything you need is provided, and each step is demonstrated and explained as we go. You'll become familiar with the tools used by potters, including:

- Bats and the bat system
- Water and how to use it effectively
- Sponges
- Throwing stick
- Pin tool
- Sponge on a stick
- Leather for compressing the rim
- Cutting wire

There will be plenty of demonstrations throughout the day, and you're encouraged to ask questions at any time. Occasionally, I may gently guide your hands while you're working at the wheel to help you understand the movements involved.

The main aim of the first day is to learn the essential skill of centring clay. Starting with around 500g of clay, you'll practise centring, opening the clay, forming a base, and pulling the walls to create simple pots.

We'll focus on two classic forms:

- Cylinders
- Bowls

After each piece, we'll look at what went well and talk about ways to improve. Throwing is a skill that develops through practice, so don't worry if some pots don't work out—that's all part of the learning process. Some pieces will be recycled, but by the end of the day you'll almost certainly have a selection of pots that show just how much you've progressed. These will be the pieces we'll continue working on during your second session.

Day Two

Usually 10.00am – 1.30pm

The length of the second session depends on how many pots you've made that are ready for trimming.

Trimming is where your pots really begin to take shape. Using specialist trimming tools, you'll learn how to create a neat foot ring, refine the walls where needed, and improve the overall balance and finish of each piece.

At the end of the session, you'll be able to choose **up to three pots** to keep.

These will be bisque fired (to approximately **1000°C**) when kiln space becomes available. Once fired, they'll be ready to collect or, if you wish, to decorate at a later stage.

What to Wear

To help you stay comfortable, please:

- Wear comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting a little muddy (they'll wash clean).

- Wear short sleeves, or sleeves that can be rolled up above your elbows.
- Wear the aprons provided.
- Wear closed-toe shoes that can be wiped clean.
- Tie back long hair.

If possible, please avoid:

- Bracelets and wristwatches.
- Rings with stones or raised settings (plain wedding bands are absolutely fine).
If a ring can't be removed, it can be covered with a plaster.
- Long artificial nails, as these can make throwing much more difficult.

We look forward to welcoming you to the studio and helping you discover the enjoyment of throwing on the wheel. Whether your first pot is wonky or wonderful, you'll leave with new skills, a better understanding of the process, and handmade pieces that reflect your progress.

If you create pieces over the two days that successfully survive the firing and you'd like to take them further, please let me know. We can arrange an additional glazing session in the studio, where you'll select glazes available from the range I have in stock and your chosen pieces will be glaze fired to make them food safe and fully finished.

This follow-up session is available at an additional cost of **£50** and includes glazing for up to **three pieces**.