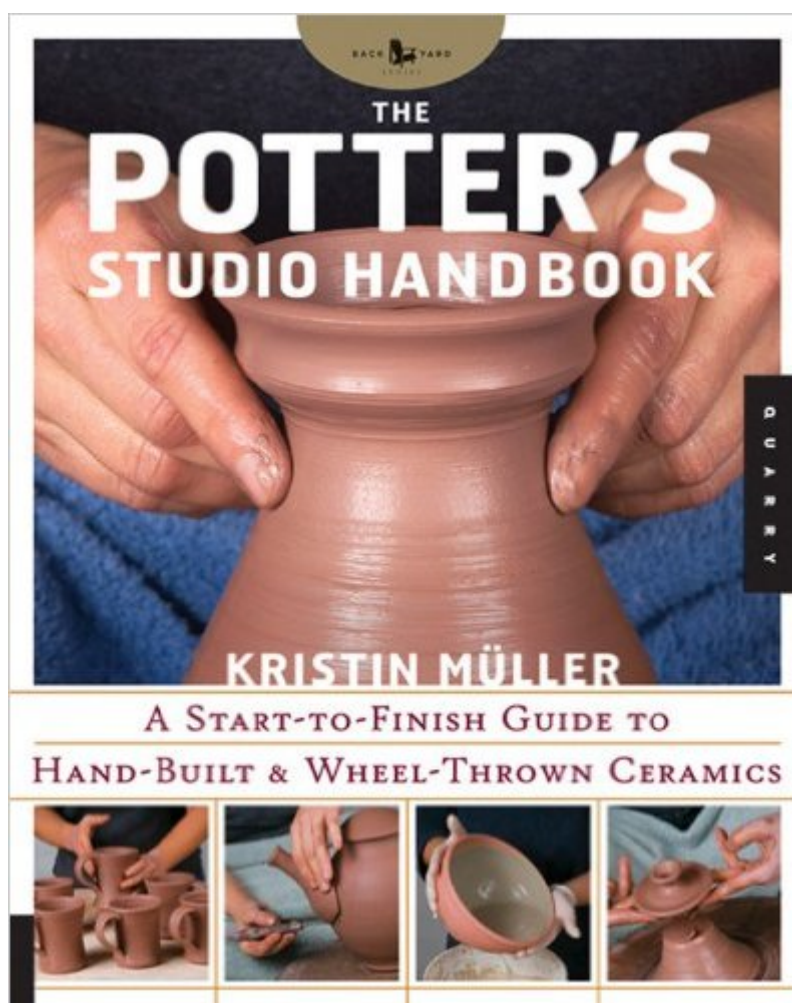


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# Potter's Studio Handbook: A Start-to-Finish Guide To Hand-Built And Wheel-Thrown Ceramics (Studio Handbook Series)



## Synopsis

Like blacksmithing or hobby farming, pottery-making appeals to individuals who like to be creative, work with their hands, and don't mind getting a little dirty. However, it is a hobby that is largely underserved by the publishing industry, but difficult for someone to learn without a comprehensive guide because the tools and techniques are quite complicated. The Potter's Studio Handbook guides readers through the process of setting up their own studio and teaching them how to master the techniques at home. Once techniques are mastered, The Potter's Studio Handbook will remain an invaluable resource to the clay artist when looking to create beautiful, yet functional projects, at home with nearly 25 projects that build upon previously learned skills. Teaches the three most popular techniques: wheel throwing, hand building, and slipcasting. Teaches readers how to make many functional and beautiful projects at home. Step-by-step photos guarantee success.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm getting a lot out of this book, especially the parts on hand building. The section about coil building is excellent tho slightly different from traditional instructions as it has it's roots in Korean and Japanese large-scale pottery making (sp. Onggi.) I don't see this book so much as a project book (tho there are a few) as a textbook for beginner students in either an academic or clay center setting. Given that one only sees a teacher once or twice a week and there is plenty of competition for their time and attention, this book fills the gap for students looking for answers to basic questions that might come up while working out their pot making techniques. I bought a couple of other books

at the same time ("Throwing" and "Hands in Clay") which are both very good but I seem to open this one more often at this stage of my learning (about 3 months into studying pottery again after 35 years of painting.) I have the Kindle version for my Fire and it is very well done, easy to read with nice color.

I am an intermediate potter looking for new ideas, techniques, and sources of inspiration. I expected this book to include more projects. The first 130 pages included light coverage of basic information that is available in dozens of other books. There are only fifty pages devoted to specific projects and they were uninspiring and frustrating. I was initially excited by the opening picture of a vase with clay applique. However, there were no instructions for that project... The instructions for the chip and dip dish was one page consisting of mostly photographs and very little instruction. It gave you no indication as to how to properly join the dip bowl to the larger bowl. Do you score and slip the bottom? Also, how do you trim the bottom of the larger bowl once you have already attached the small bowl? A more experienced potter may already have these solutions. They should have been included in the instructions for this piece. As an intermediate potter, I found this book frustrating. For the beginning potter, there are better books out there....

This book is mainly about the "big picture" of ceramics, the basics, and how to set up your own studio. If you read it from cover to cover, you'll get a very good idea of what it takes (a lot!) to have your home ceramic studio up and running. There are also very good chapters on glaze and clay basics, and lots of practical advice and tips. It covers all areas of ceramics at least moderately well, sometimes very well. But in the "how-to" projects section, there are some problems, and there are other books out there, specific to hand-building, wheel-throwing, and surface design, that are much better in terms of projects for learning. Of course, nothing beats actual classroom time! That being said, the book accomplishes its purpose of giving the reader a comprehensive overview. Very well done.

While setting up a ceramics program in a 55+ active adult community, I needed a quick helpful guide with lots of guidance. I tried this book and it has been indeed helpful with lots of information on clay types, stages, firing processes, glazing, handbuilding and throwing on the wheel. It is filled with good material, directions and pictures. My students liked it so much that some even purchased it for themselves. I had taught ceramics in the public schools for decades, and this did a great job of summarizing what I had taught over a semester in a thorough and quick, easy-to-use format.

This book has several pictures to aid the beginning potter through creating the forms presented. The author describes important technical steps to help you achieve correct wall thickness, etc. lots and lots of good size pictures for you to follow. Nice addition to your collection to see how others work with clay.

This book is a joy to read. I'm just beginning in the craft but can tell that the guidance here is spot on and inspirational. The instructions are clear and very well illustrated. I highly recommend it.

This is an excellent guide for a beginning potter, or in my case, a high school instructor with beginning ceramic students. It has terrific photos and simple explanations. It has a great glossary of vocabulary words. Very clear and helpful suggestions and tips.

As an educator, I have found this book to be a perfect classroom supplement. I have recommended it to my own private students of ceramics. It covers the most important issues of hand-building and wheel projects and is illustrated by helpful photographs throughout. I found the "tips" and "project notes" especially helpful. The author, Kristen Muller, is truly a gifted artist and potter and has shared so much of her artistry and knowledge through this book.

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