

# PULLING A HANDLE

A GREAT WAY OF MAKING SMOOTH, EVEN HANDLES



## STEP #1

Thoroughly wedge your clay. So important! - you will get lumps and air bubbles in your handle if you don't.



## STEP #2

Take a small piece of clay and roll it into a sausage shape. Make it slightly thicker than you want your handle



## STEP #3

Holding the clay with one hand, dip your other hand in water, and smooth the clay downwards. Keep dipping your smoothing hand in the water.



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## STEP #4

Use this part of your hand to repeatedly smooth the clay... you are gently smoothing using LOTS of water, rather than 'pulling' the clay



## STEP #5

You can smooth the handle into a flatter shape by gently pressing it between your thumb and finger - again using lots of water and smoothing it repeatedly



## STEP #6

When you have the thickness you want (it may take a few minutes to get there), set the clay in the shape of the handle. Press one end onto the board and lay the other end down flat.

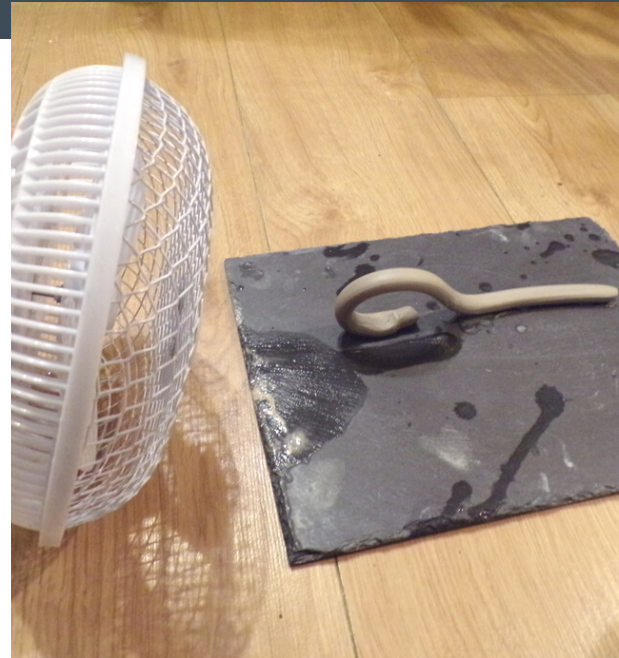
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## STEP #7

Let the handle dry to the leather-hard stage in this shape



## STEP #8

If you need it to dry quicker you can speed up the process with a fan.



## STEP #9

When leather-hard, slice the handle into the shape you want. I'm using a scraping tool from the DIY department at Wilkinsons.

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STEP #10

Check the handle is the right size for the pot before attaching.



STEP 11

Chop any additional pieces off until you get to the correct size for your pot.



STEP #12

Well done! - now you can attach your handle. There is another how-to guide on 'attaching a handle'

