

How to make a ripped up mug with tar paper

- Use 15 pound tar paper from the hardware store (30 pound is too hard to bend and fold) and cut out a rectangle 5.5" by 10.5" for a finished 12 oz. mug. This may seem huge but your mug will shrink 10-12% from wet to fired.
- Roll out slab ¼" thick.
- Use your rectangular template to cut out a matching rectangle out of your slab. Cut your slab a quarter inch bigger on one side and on the bottom of the template. These will be your seam allowances to make your side join and to add a base.
- Rip up slab but keep track of order.
- Texture each piece.
- Reassemble the pieces FACE DOWN on top of your template overlapping them about 1/8". Line up pieces with top and left edge of template allowing excess to end up at the right of the template and at the bottom of the template. You need at minimum ¼" extending beyond the right hand edge of the template and beyond the bottom edge of the template. More is fine.
- Bevel left and right edges alternately to reduce bulk in the join if you like.
- Score inside left and outside right of slab and moisten with water.
- Turn up bottom edge clay flush with template.
- Have a couple pieces of masking tape ready to tape your template together.
- An empty 16 oz beer or Arizona tea can makes it easier to wrap your slab into a cylinder and keep it round. Tape some newspaper around the can so the clay doesn't stick to it. Even easier is to slide the can into a knee high panty hose!
- Roll your clay covered template around the can with the clay on the inside.
- Tape template together after overlapping the ends of the clay.
- Press seam together firmly against the side of the can.
- Pull can out and tamp down excess inside bottom with a dowel.
- Score and moisten with water the bottom where you'll add a base. Add a small slab to outside of bottom tearing it a bit smaller than diameter of mug so the seam won't be visible. It will be underneath the mug. Tamp inside with a dowel to seal seam and use moistened paintbrush to smooth it.
- NOW TAKE OFF YOUR TEMPLATE TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!!!!!!
- Add handle if you like

NOTE: If building with slabs of 2 different colors of clay choose 2 colors of clay that have the same shrinkage within about 1%. Clays that I use at cone 10 in my gas kiln are IMCO 8-11 Red and IMCO 8-11 Buff. Any medium to smooth grog clays will work and this process works at low fire, high fire, and raku. I have also used Clay Planet's Orion Stout, Cinnamon, and Bravo Buff successfully at cone 10. I have recently used Bravo Buff, Cinnamon and Quayle Sandstone Buff together at cone 6 oxidation as well.