

The Gentle Art of Pottering

Pottery is a beautiful and rewarding craft that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels. It is a versatile art form that can be used to create a wide variety of objects, from functional items like bowls and plates to decorative pieces like sculptures and vases. The process of pottery can be both relaxing and meditative, and it is a great way to express your creativity.

Choosing the Right Materials

The first step in pottery is choosing the right materials. The most common type of clay used for pottery is earthenware clay. Earthenware clay is relatively inexpensive and easy to work with, and it fires at a low temperature. Stoneware clay is another popular option. Stoneware clay is more durable than earthenware clay and fires at a higher temperature. Porcelain clay is the most expensive type of clay, but it is also the most durable and fires at the highest temperature.



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★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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In addition to clay, you will also need a few other materials for pottery, including:

- Water
- Glaze
- Kiln

Throwing on the Wheel

One of the most popular pottery techniques is throwing on the wheel. Throwing on the wheel involves using a spinning wheel to shape clay into a variety of forms. To throw on the wheel, you will need to first prepare your clay by wedging it. Wedging is the process of kneading the clay to remove any air bubbles and make it more pliable.

Once your clay is prepared, you can center it on the wheel. To center the clay, you will need to hold it in your hands and gently push it down onto the wheel. Once the clay is centered, you can begin to shape it by using your hands and a variety of tools.

Handbuilding

Handbuilding is another popular pottery technique. Handbuilding involves using your hands to shape clay into a variety of forms. There are many different handbuilding techniques, including:

- Pinch pots
- Coil pots
- Slab pots

Pinch pots are made by pinching a ball of clay between your fingers and shaping it into a pot. Coil pots are made by rolling out coils of clay and then coiling them together to create a pot. Slab pots are made by rolling out slabs of clay and then assembling them to create a pot.

Glazing and Firing

Once you have created your pottery pieces, you will need to glaze and fire them. Glazing is the process of applying a thin layer of glass to the surface of your pottery. Glaze can be used to add color, texture, and shine to your pottery. To glaze your pottery, you will need to dip it into a glaze bucket or apply it with a brush.

After your pottery is glazed, you will need to fire it in a kiln. A kiln is a special oven that is used to heat pottery to a high temperature. The temperature of the kiln will vary depending on the type of clay you are using. Earthenware clay is fired at a low temperature, while stoneware clay is fired at a higher temperature. Porcelain clay is fired at the highest temperature.

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Additional Resources

- [The Pottery Wheel](#)
- [Ceramic Arts Daily](#)
- [Pottery Making Info](#)



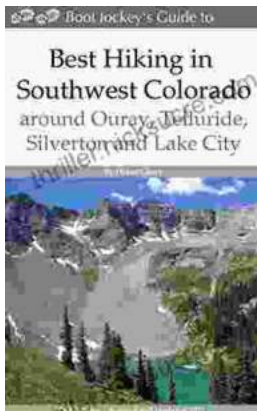
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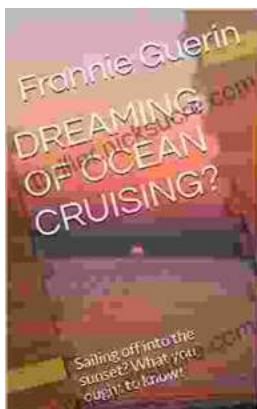
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