

# POTTERY NOTES:

## 6: TRIMMING POTS & TURNING FOOTRINGS

A footing ring contributes to both form and function of the pot, fining the shape, making the pot lighter, and giving the pot stability when sitting on its base. You can create a footing by trimming the leather hard pot on the wheel.

Here's a summary - but before you start, take a look at the pot. Consider what will enhance the shape and check that there is enough clay in the base to trim.

### CENTER THE POT

Place your pot as close to the center of the wheel. Use a fingertip or pin tool as a pointer and check that the bottom (now top) of the pot is centered, adjust as required.

### SECURE THE POT

Stop the wheel, steady the pot and press three soft clay coils around the rim to secure to the wheel. Some pots (eg. bottles) may need a chuck to hold the pot in place.

### MARK THE POT

Once secure, mark the inner and outer footing.

### TRIM

With the wheel at a medium speed, use a trimming tool to cut clay from the footing. Brace your arms and steady your hands as you do when throwing.

For the inner part of a footing, start in the center and slowly work to the edge of the footing. Apply gentle pressure so the tool shaves the clay evenly.

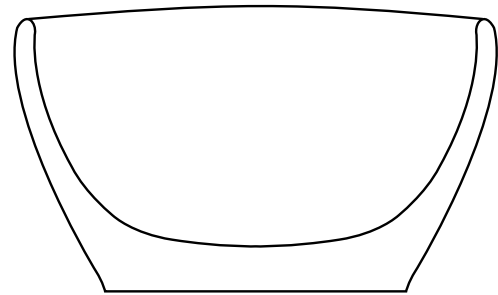
Trim the clay on the outer part of the foot ring.

### SMOOTH

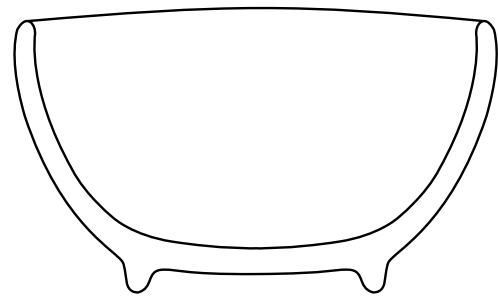
Use a sponge or fingertip to smooth any marks.

### CHOOSE A FOOT THAT SUITS YOUR POT

Not all pots need a footing. You could just turn to remove excess weight and refine the shape.



before



after

### NOT ALL POTS NEED A FOOTRING

You could turn to remove excess weight and refine the shape. If you leave the base of your pot flat make sure its slightly concave or it might wobble!