

PERCUSSIVE PODS

Preparation

1. Cover the tables with canvas to keep the clay from sticking.
2. Divide your clay into 4 pieces.
3. Assemble the texture-making supplies.
4. Have a bowl of cornstarch and brushes available.

Process

1. With a rolling pin or soup can, roll slabs from each of your 4 pieces of clay, no thinner than 1/4". If the clay sticks, cover with newspaper to roll it. Trim a little off to roll into tiny pellets.
2. Impress or roll various textures into the slabs while they are still soft. Use texture molds, embossed wallpaper samples, press tools, leaves, wire mesh — any interesting texture will work. Remember, the fun is in the experimentation!
3. Roll small clay pellets to be enclosed in the rattle. Brush the pellets with cornstarch to keep them from sticking. Vary the sizes in order to alter the sounds they will make.
4. Form the clay slab into any shape. Ideas:
 - Experiment with shapes that might fit the hand well, long shapes such as rain-sticks, or rounded shapes such as gourds. Make rattles that look like seed pods or cocoons.
 - Slabs can be formed around bunched-up paper towels. |
or newspaper. The paper will burn away.
 - Round shapes can be made by rolling a ball, slicing it in half with a wire clay cutter, then carving the clay from the inside with a loop tool. Join the two hollow halves back together.
5. Whenever pieces of clay are joined, they must be "scored" in order to seal properly. Score the edges by scratching the surface with a fork or needle tool or skewer where the two



parts meet. Apply a mixture of a small amount of water and a little clay (known as "slip") over the score marks to act as a "glue" between the joined pieces.

6. Firing clay will require that a very small hole be pierced with a needle tool somewhere in the body of the rattle to allow steam to escape. Before closing the form completely, insert the clay pellets.
7. Bring your pods back to the Bay School to be fired. We will email you when they are ready to be picked up. Include your name and email/phone number!
8. Finish the rattles by applying acrylic paint. Using a dry brush and paint with no added water, lightly cover the higher textures on the surface. Leave the lower areas of the imprint the natural color of the clay for a beautiful contrast that emphasizes the design.
9. Discover the various sounds your rattles make!

Options

- Use metallic acrylic paint to make rattles that appear to be cast from metal. Recommend Sargent Art® Metallic Acrylics, 8-oz, assorted colors (00730-)
- Paint the entire rattle a dark base color first, then brush over raised areas with a light or metallic color.

