

Papier Maché Pottery

by Louise Bristow

It's easy to create a vase like this one made by James Tower in 1958 - the instructions will show you how.

He called his creation 'Shell Vase' and it's easy to see that he was inspired by the ridged surface of a sea shell to create the vase's texture.



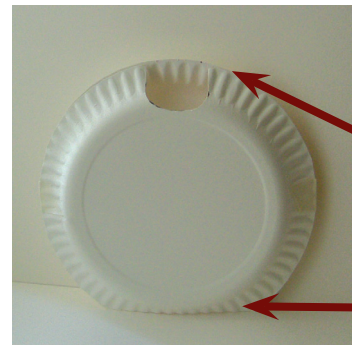
You will need:

A kitchen roll tube
2 paper plates
Masking tape / Sellotape
A pair of scissors
PVA glue
Some newspapers



Shell Vase, by James Tower

Black & cream paint
A paintbrush
A pencil
Some pieces of card
Wood filler or 'Polyfilla'



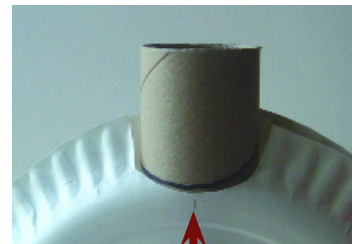
1. Tape 2 paper plates together, face to face.

2. Cut a hole at the top for the kitchen roll tube to go in.

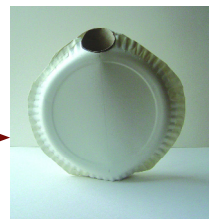
3. Cut a straight line along the bottom so that the plates can stand upright.



4. Insert the tube between the plates.

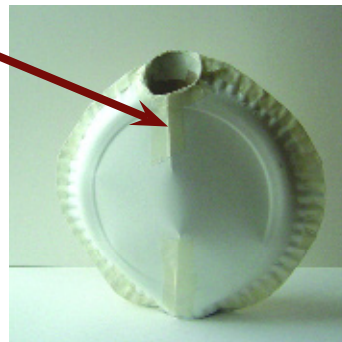


7. You can cut 'darts' in the plate and stuff newspaper inside to build out the shape of the pot.



5. Draw round the top of the tube and trim off the excess.

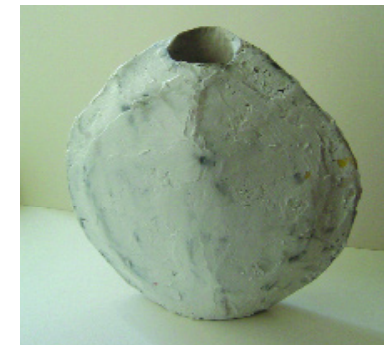
6. Tape the tube in place and tape around the edges of the plates.



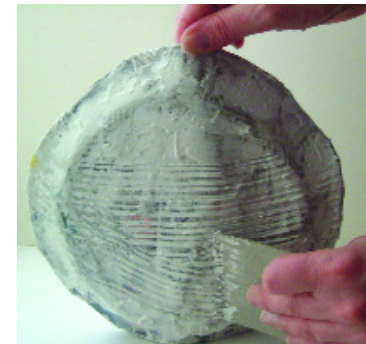
8. Now its time for the papier maché.
To prepare, mix some PVA glue with water (about half & half) and tear up the newspaper into small pieces.



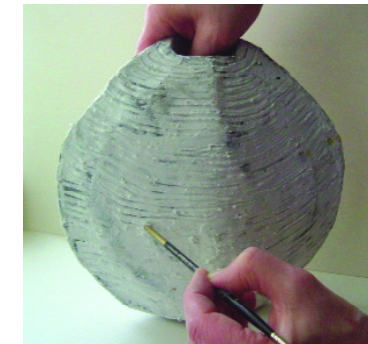
9. Paste the newspaper pieces all over the structure.
The more layers you do, the stronger your pot will be.
Leave to dry.



10. Using a piece of card, spread filler all over the surface of the pot.
* if you don't have any filler you can use sand mixed with PVA.



11. Drag a piece of card with a grooved edge (like a comb) across the wet filler to create a ridged texture.



12. You can also use the end of a paintbrush to incise lines into the surface.
Let the filler dry.



13. When the filler is completely dry, paint the pot black.
Let the paint dry.

14. Then brush cream paint lightly over the surface, so that paint only goes on the raised ridges. *Hint - it helps to use a dry brush and make vertical brush-strokes, against the grain of the ridges.



Your vase is finished - well done!
*You can have fun making other shapes - try putting papier maché over a balloon to create a bowl.

