



THE OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS

LA GUILDE DES POTIERS D'OTTAWA

Fired UP!

February 2017

Tips and Tricks

At the February members' meeting, potters shared tips and ideas they found helpful in their own practice. Several individuals brought in objects, photos, and stories to share and presented several of their favourite tips and techniques. The evening was a success judging by the numbers of ooh's and ahh's that were heard throughout the night. To benefit all the Guild, the following represent the showcase of ideas demonstrated at the meeting:

Monica showed her vertical storage units for her tools - one she purchased at a thrift store and the other at Homesense for utensils. The first unit held most of her tools upright for easy access and visualization and the second was a unit that carried her most-used tools and she carries that one from station to station.

Elizabeth Davies introduced everyone to the Tool Shark which can be purchased at Capital Pottery.

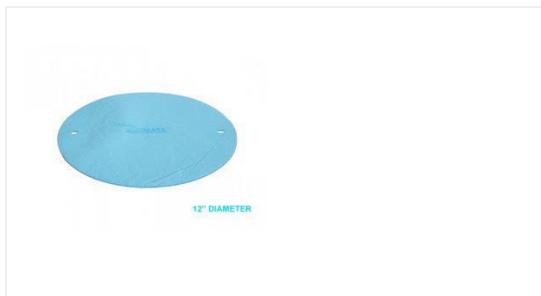


Marthe told us about two amazing objects to use in our practice: yoga blocks and Styrofoam coolers. The yoga blocks are excellent tool holders but also supports for large and funky hand-built projects and the coolers are perfect containers to keep your work in the exact state you left it - perfect for handles and spouts and anything else we need to preserve such as pots for carving! There were quite a few "wow's!" after these revelations!

Donna shared her product Porcelaine which you can purchase at a craft store that she uses to help stop your pots from weeping on the bottoms.

Geraldine shared with us her beautiful charting system and notebook where she carefully documents the process of her work from start to finish. She also showed us test tiles that she uses to record her glazes that are in the shape of delightful fish.

Barb showed us her trimming disk that she popped out of a dollar store lazy susan. This disk has bearings that rotate completely around. Cost her \$3.00!



Michelle uses a very cool 'bat mate' that her sister bought for her in Montreal. She places the bat mate on the wheel and then she can use all her wobbly bats which do not slide. It is a round material with holes for the wheel pins and when wet feels like a chamois.

Kim showed her plaster bowl mold that she purchased from a pottery supply store and explained that she uses the reverse space of the bowl to create appetizer-sized pots. She also explained that she used her Giffin Grip to hold the bowl form in place while she threw a foot ring on the bottom of her bowl.

Ada shared that she knew how to get rid of most trimming chatter marks when they occur by *reversing* the wheel and continue trimming.

Kirstin shared a photo of her Sultan Mug Warmer which is her favourite tool in the studio because it keeps her tea hot while she is working and recommended magic water which you can buy at Capital or make your own to fix those annoying cracks in your greenware.



We hope to have another **Member's Tips of the Trade** night in the future.