

Clay Rattles

For this project, you will be creating an enclosed clay form with no openings. Your form will be hollow on the inside. There are a variety of techniques that can be used to create a rattle. You will need to first, sketch out an idea of what you want your rattle to look like. It could be an animal, food, a face, etc. You can not make a ball or anything that is in the form of a simple sphere. Your rattle should be able to fit in your hand so don't make it too big. You also don't want it so small that you won't be able to fit rattles inside.

A little history of rattles

Rattles are musical instruments created out of clay or other materials that have a hollow body. The hollow body contains small loose beads of clay that make noise when shaken. Rattles are used in many cultures to memorialize and celebrate people. The birth of a child was commemorated with the giving of a rattle in Victorian times. A rattle's sound is soothing, magical and powerful. Rattles can be found throughout history and in many different cultures. Examples include maracas, cabacas, African and Latin American calabash, Hawaiian Uli Uli, and baby rattles.

Methods for creating a rattle in clay

1. Pinch Pot Rattles



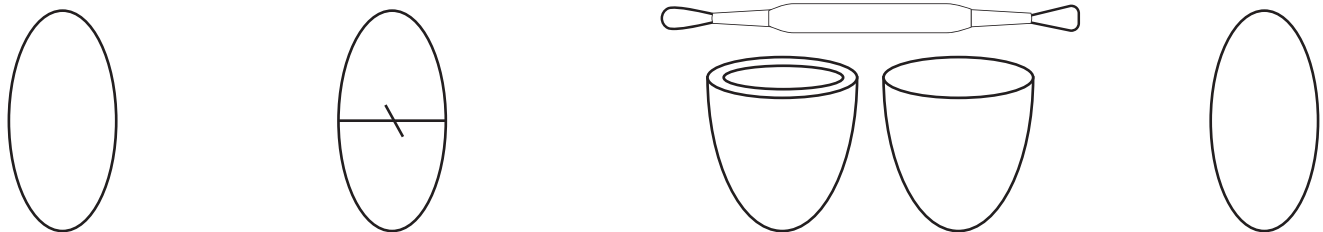
[See a demo here.](#)

2. Slab Rattles



[See a demo here.](#)

3. Shape, Cut, Hollow



- Form a shape
- Divide shape with wire or fishing line
- Make a notch
- Without distorting the shape, hollow both sides with a loop tool
- Add beads inside
- Slip, score, attach, smooth, decorate

[See a demo by clicking here.](#)

Clay Rattles cont.

Your job is to :

1. Research, look at and collect a file of rattles that interest you. Artists to look at include Bridget Fox, Kelly Jean Ohl and Carol Lebreton.
2. Also, Look for any resource images that might be helpful. For example, if you were creating a rattle that looks like a bird, look for photos to work from.
3. Sketch **several ideas**, with different construction methods, and show a step-by-step plan for how it will be created.