

*Education material
from Stone Leaf Pottery*

Peri Charlifu, Artist



Project: Surprised Expression



Making faces is not difficult, what is more so, is making a face with an expression. There are several ways to do this. Most of the expression in a face come from the mouth and eyes. This expression will illustrate the basic shape of the face, the techniques to making expressions and some finishing techniques as well. Once you get the idea, you can adapt this technique to other faces and forms, you can put them on mugs, vases and bottles as well as pinch pots.



Step one: Start with a ball of clay, we're going to be making a pinch pot. It can be any size, this one is 3/4 pound.



Step two: Make a pinch pot, keeping it as spherical as possible. You can make two half spheres and attach them together if that's easier.



Step three: Invert the ball, you can seal the bottom or leave it open.



Step four: Using a ball tool or your finger, make depressions for the eye, the eye should be placed toward the top of the face. To leave room for the rest of the features.



Step five: Make a small ball of clay and flatten it out into a thick disk as shown, this is the mouth.



Step six: Attach the mouth to the lower part of the face, as shown.



Step 7: Using a cone tool or pencil, open the mouth as shown, this will help with the surprised expression. Make a cone of clay for the nose.



Step 8: Place the cone of clay as shown and smooth in on the sides a third of the way down and across the bridge of the nose.





Step 9: With a pencil or scribe pierce the nostrils as shown.



Step 10: Side view



Step 11 make a ball, cut in two even pieces and roll into tapered snakes as shown, these are the brows.



Step 12 Place the brows as shown, note that the placement of the brows will inform the emotion of the face as well as the mouth.



Step 13 Blend the brow inward, leaving the outside as is. Place two equal sized balls for the eyes. Note that the eyes should be big and proportionate to the face.



Step 14 Pierce the pupils with a thick scribe or pencil. By moving the placement of the pupils, you can make your guy look up, down or to the side. Make two equal balls, these are the ears.



Step 15 Cup the balls to make two disks, making sure to leave enough clay to form the outside of the ear as shown.



Step 16 Place your ears to be even with the eyes.





Step 17 Blend the ears into the face as shown, pierce the ears to form the inner structure.



Step 18 Roll out a small cylinder. This is the tongue, flatten it and place it in the mouth.



Step 19 Using a pencil or sharpened dowel. Run a slight line down the center of there tongue. At this point finish the surface. You can add hair, a beauty mark or other features.

