

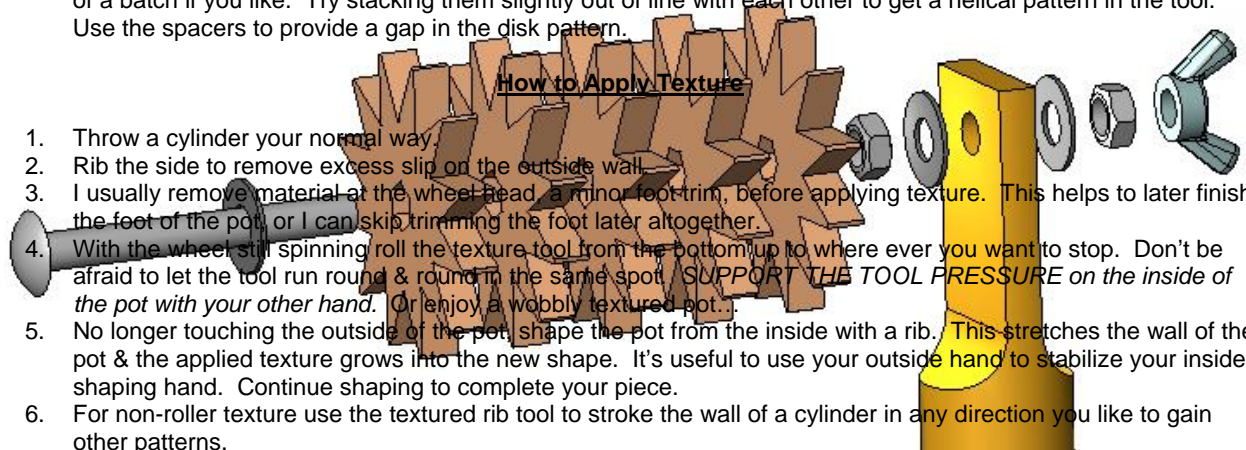
The Steve Tool™

www.graberspottery.com

WARNING: The parts contained in this kit are small. Please do not let them be swallowed by people, children or pets.
WARNING: The parts can be sharp. Please do not cut yourself or others with these parts.

How to Assemble the Tool

1. Stack the texture disks over the long screw in any order you wish, or in an order shown on the diagram.
2. Secure the texture disks with one of the hex nuts. Use a 7/16 wrench if you like. This group should be tight.
3. Slip the long screw into the handle. Secure with another hex nut. Make sure this hex nut is not too tight on the handle. The stack of texture disks must spin freely. Use washers here & there to let the group spin freely.
4. Use the wing nut as a jam nut to make sure the last hex nut does not loosen or tighten during use.
5. Rearrange the textures disks as you like to experiment with patterns & results! Try using just one disk instead of a batch if you like. Try stacking them slightly out of line with each other to get a helical pattern in the tool. Use the spacers to provide a gap in the disk pattern.



1. Throw a cylinder your normal way.
2. Rib the side to remove excess slip on the outside wall.
3. I usually remove material at the wheel head, a minor foot trim, before applying texture. This helps to later finish the foot of the pot, or I can skip trimming the foot later altogether.
4. With the wheel still spinning roll the texture tool from the bottom up to where ever you want to stop. Don't be afraid to let the tool run round & round in the same spot. **SUPPORT THE TOOL PRESSURE on the inside of the pot with your other hand.** Or enjoy a wobbly textured pot...
5. No longer touching the outside of the pot, shape the pot from the inside with a rib. This stretches the wall of the pot & the applied texture grows into the new shape. It's useful to use your outside hand to stabilize your inside shaping hand. Continue shaping to complete your piece.
6. For non-roller texture use the textured rib tool to stroke the wall of a cylinder in any direction you like to gain other patterns.

Tips & Ideas

1. I find a **STRAIGHT** cylinder yields a very consistent texture pattern from bottom to top of the pot. When shaped you can get wonderful helical patterns! However an irregular cylinder shape can yield interesting texture results also. Try various cylinder shapes before forming the pot.
2. When rolling the tool up the walls, I generally maintain a common orientation of the tool as I move up the pot. However twisting the tool some (along the handle axis) with your hand as you move up can achieve other results to the texture. Roll the handle one way or the other.
3. A thick wall cylinder pressed hard with The Steve Tool® can yield monstrous textures! But a thin wall cylinder with lightly applied texture can be very affective too. Try multiple thicknesses outside your norm.
4. Stretch pots out from the inside until the walls rip open a little. Explore that region of near collapse, broken walls, torn textures! Or use the walls as a slab for hand building.
5. I try to make a demarcation line at the end of the texture zone & the beginning of the smooth regions. (and often forget). I like the distinction line between texture & non-texture. For this I use the wood end of a needle tool.
6. Apply a contrasting color clay slip to a leather textured pot & scrape some away later.
7. Use the texture to hold back runny glazes. Texture only the top of shoulder area & smother this with a glaze.
8. Stretch a pot till it **JUST** starts to collapse. Leave it sit for a while & stiffen. Stretch more. Repeat.
9. **DON'T** forget basic shape while you explore texture. It's not hard to forget pleasing shapes while falling in love with applying texture. A badly shaped pot is still a bad shape pot with texture. Get out of your chair & review the pot from a distant angle before cutting from the wheel.
10. Apply the texture with fast or slow moving wheels. Apply the texture while running the wheel up the pot fast or slowly. Fast wheel spinning rates or slowly spinning wheels.
11. Dirty texture wheels are not necessarily bad! Sometimes I actually clean my tools. Often I don't...
12. Snip every other tooth off a wheel to explore alternate results. Or file the teeth to a radius instead of sharp corners.
13. On a **STOPPED** wheel head run the roller north & south on the pot, or any other direction. Or not all around the piece. Or just glancing off the piece.
14. Cut out the textured pockets in the leather pot later for a piercing look. Re-fill the holes with beadwork or basket weaving. Or contrasting clay.
15. Use the applied texture to enable a **radical** chatter later while trimming the texture OFF.