



THE
PEEP
SHOW



SKUTT
CERAMIC PRODUCTS

skutt.com • 503.774.6000



THE PEEP SHOW

The Peep Show was created to feature small ceramic pieces created by Students and Artists in the Skutt booths at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) & the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA).

We also have a traveling show that has over 100 Peeps from artists of all ages, that is displayed in various galleries, distributor's show rooms, and venues around the country.

HOW TO ENTER

Register online before the January 31st deadline:

K-12 Teachers (NAEA):

www.skutt.com/peepholeplug/register2.html

Potters (NCECA):

www.skutt.com/peepshow/register1.html

We're sure we will see many Peeps that will bring a smile to our faces each year in the spring for both the K-12 students at NAEA and the potters at NCECA.

We all need our Peeps!



Creating a functioning Peephole Plug, that fits into the peephole on a kiln, is a great small ceramic project. It offers not only using one's imagination but also the design factor to allow for a percent of shrinkage in the clay so it fits nicely into the kiln's peepholes.

So what does a peephole do, anyway?

The peephole and its plug play an important part in the firing of your kiln. The hole has a couple functions:

1. The hole allows moisture that is driven off by the heat, to escape the kiln.
2. The hole also allows oxygen into the kiln, which helps burn out organic material during the slow bisque. This is important because if the organic materials are not all burnt off they will again burn off during the glaze fire; producing gas that can cause glaze defects.

Skutt Envirovents vent the kiln by drawing air down through the top of the kiln & out the bottom of the kiln through small holes. This allows you to plug up the peepholes in both the bisque and glaze firings and still get plenty of oxygen into the kiln. Venting this way does a better job of removing odors and vapors and also helps extend the life of the kiln.

3. The hole provides you a way to look into the kiln at different levels (always use eye protection) to see well-placed senior cones or my favorite self-supporting cones that measure the Heat Work (time & temperature) that has occurred. These cones are accurate and give you great information that allow you to make adjustments to your kiln sitters, and firing schedules, and check the accuracy of your Kiln Master controllers to help you create more consistent and accurate firings. Remember that the mass of the load and how it is arranged in the kiln can affect firing times and how even the kiln fires from top to bottom.



How to create a Peep that will work in your kiln and also be submitted for the Peep Show.

1. Your decorative Peep Hole Plug needs to be made of ceramic clay, lowfire cone 06-04, mid range cone 4-7, or high fire clay cone 10, fired and functional (any fired clay). It must fit into a peephole's opening (1 1/4 inch opening tapering to 3/4 of an inch.) The tapered part of the plug should be about 1 3/4 to 2 inches long and needs to support the plug while in the peephole.

Model about 1/2 to 3/4 of a pound of clay with the Plug part sized to allow for the shrinkage. (See illustration at right.) With the decorative part attached to the end of the plug, your piece should be about 3 - 4 inches long.

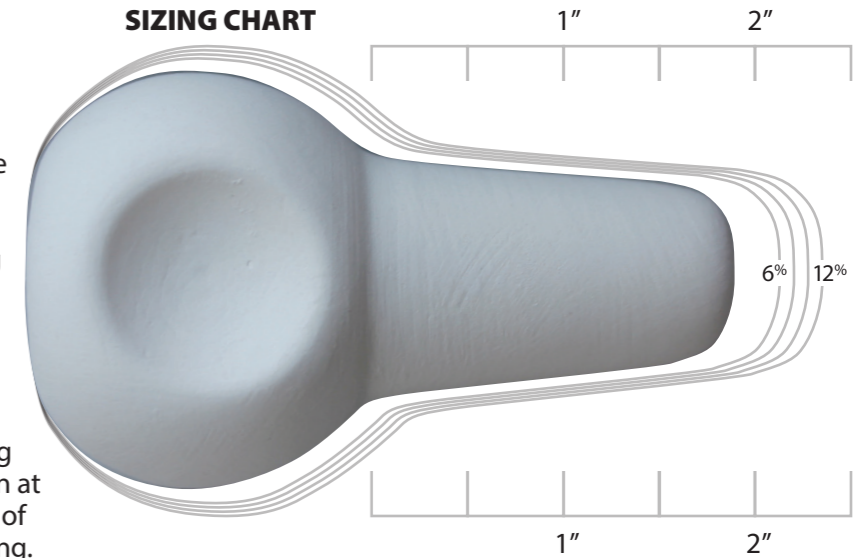
Modeling can be done from one piece of clay and/or attachments can be applied. Be sure to score & slip attachments well to your Peep. Those with throwing skills can throw parts or the entire Peephole Plug. For best results, the thickness of the clay walls should be constructed evenly to allow even drying and less cracking issues.



2. Keep in mind that clay appendages that stick out too far become very fragile and will dry faster than the rest of your Peep and can crack and fall off easily. Many clay octopus tentacles and deer antlers have bit the dust in a project like this. Plastic can be used to slow the drying process and help prevent cracks.

We've also seen old element wires creatively inserted into the clay and used as hair and antennas.

3. Paper or Styrofoam Cups with holes cut in the bottom then flipped upside down, can be used to support your Peep while creating.



4. Adding color: the plug part should not be glazed. Underglaze on the plug part is okay ONLY if the plug is going to be functional and used in the peephole of a kiln that is low fired. Some underglaze colors can melt at the cone 6-10 range. This could cause them to be attached to the inside of the peephole brick.

NOTE: You do not want to use any glazes on the plunger/plug part of the Peep – if used it could be glazed permanently into the Peephole. The outside of the plug that extends outside the kiln may be glazed.

5. If your Peeps are made solid they should be dried very slowly and fired very slowly.

6. Use pinched clay supports or kiln posts to support your Peeps if needed in the bisque and glaze firings.



Themes and ideas seem to run rampant in the art room and studio: baseball gloves, animals, fish, lips, faces, flowers, spaceships, flying pigs, and yes, even those Peeps we see at Easter time.

So many have been creative that they are too numerous to name, and all have been successful.

Kudos and Thanks to all of the artists featured on these pages: Josh Stover, Lisa Scroggins, Megan Eileen Gulland, Melissa Parrot Quimby, Mike Gilbert, Fletcher HS/Neptune FL (Kathy Skaggs, Art Teacher), Patricia Walker, Rachel Bleil, Vijayan Paniker, West Newton Elementary (Tracey Suchy, Art Teacher), Dee Schaad, Sarah Hartman, Dick Hay, Bradenton Christian HS (Debbie Snow, Art Teacher), Adam Spuryear, Pamela Woodworth, Hicksville HS/NY (Angela Galante, Art Teacher), Bill Jones, David L. Gamble, & Barbara Ott. Also, Big Thanks to *Arts & Activities* magazine for their help!