

## **Udu Drum**

**Objective:** Students will learn about Nigerian ceramic art along with creating a drum using the pinch pot method.

**Vocabulary:** pinch pot, score, slip, coil, fire, underglazes, sgraffito-style

**Materials:** Clay, underglazes, foam

**Tools:** Needle Tool, slip, paper clips, craft stick

### Historical/Cultural Context:

*Udu*, or the English word of vessel, is both an African aerophone and an idiophone used by the people of Nigeria. Being a water jug with an additional hole, *udu* is played by women for ceremonial uses. Usually the *udu* is made of clay. The instrument is played by hand and produces a special and unique bass sound by quickly hitting the big hole. Today, the instrument is chosen by percussionist in different music styles. Many traditional and modern instruments are also derived from the *udu*, such as the *udu* drums.

The *Udu* drums represent pottery and peace in the Ibo culture of Nigeria. Although they are commonly being called as *Udu* drums, these side hole pot drums have various names in Nigeria, depending on tribal areas and ceremonies in which they are used. *Abangmbre*, or pot for playing, is the name that is generally ascribed to it. Many believe the particular deep haunting sound of *Udu* drums is the “voice of ancestors” when they are played in religious ceremonies.

An *Udu* Drum is played by in a seated position with the drum on the player's lap. The performer hits any part of the drum with the palm of the hand or the finger tips. The textured surface provides additional tonal variations by creating rubbing sounds that are at times light and bubbly and at times profound.

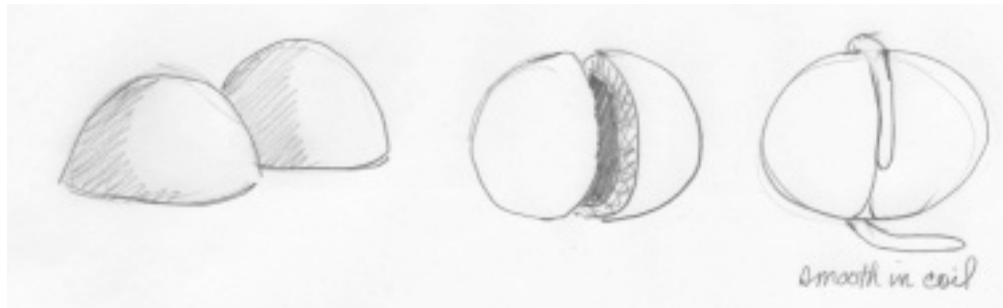
## Instructions:

### Day 1

1. Form 2 matching pinch pots, cover lightly.

### Day 2

1. Join pinch pots (after leather hard) by scoring both sides along edges, press together.
2. Roll thin coil, enough to fill dip at joint, press and smooth into joint (score only if too smooth).



3. Paddle into desired shape and smooth.
4. Wrap the pot with the bottom exposed. Rest the pot on foam.
5. Cut a hole, approximately 2 inches in diameter from the top.
6. Roll out 3/8 in coils for the neck. The neck will be approximately 1-2 inches in height. More coils can be added for a taller neck and a different sounding drum.
7. Lay a coil around the hole that was, following the edge of the hole. Note the overlap of the end of the previous coil with the starting end of the new coil.
8. The coils should be moist and can be melded without roughing the edges.
9. Continue melding; first on the inside and then on the outside.
10. Using the bottom of a plastic cup, mark a side-hole circle that is about the same diameter as the neck. Cut the circle using a knife or needle tool.
11. Smooth holes with a sponge for comfort.

### Day 3

1. The wall is thick enough so that some light carving or *sgraffito*-style designs can be made.









