

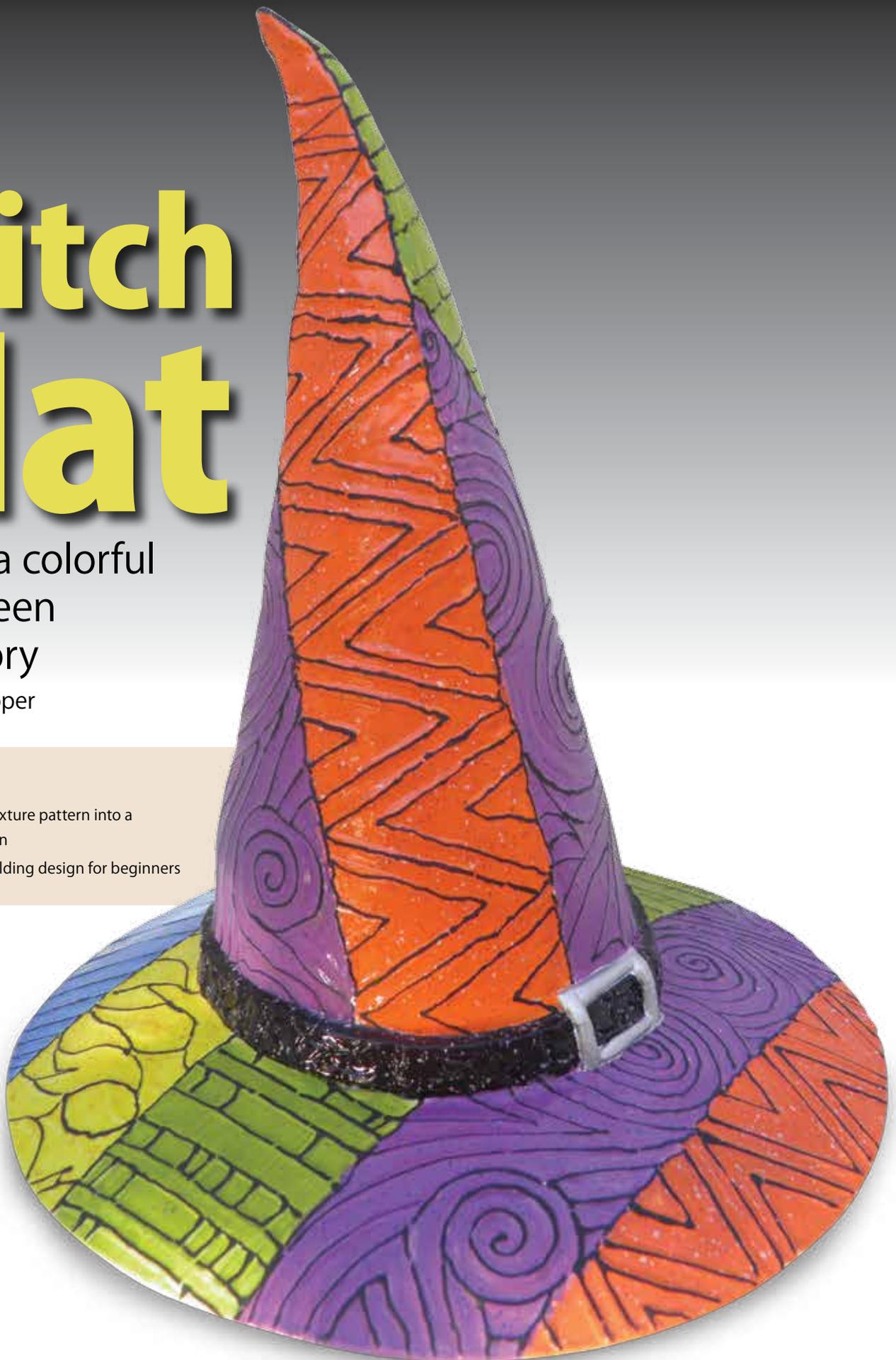
Witch Hat

Create a colorful
Halloween
accessory

By Julie A. Soper

Objectives

- Incorporate texture pattern into a painted design
- Easy hand-building design for beginners



Helpful Hints

- Don't roll out more than one clay slab at a time. The second slab needs to be pliable to make the cone shape.
- Thrift stores are a great source for plates, bowls, and found textures for your ceramics work if you don't want to borrow from the kitchen.

Step 1: Roll out a large clay slab about ¼ inch thick.

Step 2: Place the texture mold on your work table with the texture side up. Remove the canvas from one side of the clay slab and flip the slab over on top of the texture mold. Use a rolling pin to press the clay slab down into the texture mold. Then hold the canvas, clay, and mold all together and flip the entire stack over on the table. Remove the texture mold from the clay slab.

Step 3: Place the large dinner plate facedown on top of the textured clay slab. Run a sharp X-Acto knife to cut around the rim, cutting a circle from the clay slab. Remove excess clay from the outside edge of the circle. Remove the plate from the slab.

Step 4: Cut a hole about 1 inch in diameter in the middle of the clay circle. This will allow the assembled hat to vent while firing.

Step 5: Cover the back side of the dinner plate with a sheet of tissue paper. Place the textured slab on top of the tissue paper with the texture facing up and center the slab on the plate. This will give the hat brim a nice gentle curve.

Step 6: Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to make a second textured clay slab.

Step 7: Use the straightedge and a needle tool to cut out the largest possible triangle from the slab.

Step 8: Make an angled cut along the right and left sides of the triangle so that the edges will match up when curved around to make a cone shape. Score and slip the edges, and then press them together to make the cone. Smooth out the seam where the edges as much as possible without disturbing the texture.

Step 9: Position the base of the cone so that it's centered over the hole in circle slab. Trace around the base of the cone with a needle tool. Then set the cone aside.

Step 10: Score and slip just inside the traced circle. Place the cone over the slip and press down to make good contact.

Step 11: Using both hands, gently bend the upper part of cone to one side (see photos).

Step 12: Cut a small, thin strip of clay slab sized to fit around the base of the cone, forming the a hat band. Score and slip the back of the strip and press it into place.

Step 13: Hand roll a small clay rope and cut out and assemble four sections to form the buckle of the hat band. Score, slip, and attach the buckle.

Step 14: Let the hat dry for four or five days. Fire to cone 04. Once the kiln has cooled, remove the hat and wipe with a damp sponge to remove any dust.

Step 15: Choose one of the Stroke & Coat colors for each texture pattern on the hat. Apply three coats of color to each section of pattern, allowing the color to dry between coats. Apply three coats of Tuxedo to the hat band, but leave the buckle unglazed.

Materials

Brent Mini SRC slab roller by Amaco or rolling pin
EM347 whiteware clay with grog by Laguna Clay
Squeeze bottle with compatible slip
Clay cutting wire
Clay canvas
Assorted Kemper clay tools
Plaster board
TX13 Hot Patterns texture mold by Creative Paradise

Colors

Silver acrylic paint
Black acrylic paint
Speckled Stroke & Coat by Mayco:
SC-227 Speckled Sour apple
SC-206 Speckled Sunkissed
SC-212 Speckled Moody Blue
SC-213 Speckled Grapel
SC-215 Speckled Tuxedo
SG-401 Designer Liner Black by Mayco

Miscellaneous

Straightedge or ruler
X-Acto knife
Tissue paper
Large dinner plate from the kitchen

Step 16: Use the Black Designer Liner to outline all the patterns. Let the colors dry completely.

Step 17: Stilt and fire to cone 06.

Step 18: Paint the buckle with metallic silver acrylic paint.

Step 19: Paint the underside of the hat brim with black acrylic paint.

Advanced Methods

Roll out plain clay slabs and use a slip bottle to create raised blocks of texture.

Experiment with different hat crowns — taller and thinner, very short, even more twisted.

Omit the hole in the bottom circle and instead cut out a section of the cone so you can use the hat to hold a flower arrangement.

Julie A. Soper has been working with ceramics since she was 15. She's spent the last seven years developing and expanding her skills, and she enjoys traveling to different venues for ceramics classes and spending time with ceramics friends from around the world.

Sources

Amaco: www.amaco.com
Creative Paradise: <https://creativeparadise.biz>
Kemper tools: www.kempertools.com
Laguna Clay: www.lagunaclay.com
Mayco: www.maycocolors.com
X-Acto: www.xacto.com