

Building the basic structure of a Shoji lamp

Japanese Shoji lamps are glowing boxes, traditionally made of bamboo and paper, constructed with thin, wooden slats holding rectangles of white rice paper to diffuse the light bulb's glare. Unlike most lamps, the lampshade and body of a shoji lamp are integrated into one rectilinear unit. Inspired by Japanese shoji screens, the lamp glows serenely and exudes natural calm that resembles sunlight where windows aren't possible.

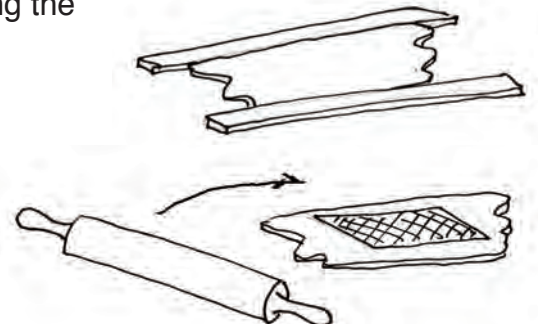


For our project, we are going to take the idea of a shoji lamp, and put a modern twist on it. We will construct the lamp using clay, building in the style of SLAB CONSTRUCTION. Instead of the rice paper window, we will use a photograph, printed on vellum paper. Here's how to build the lamp using the SLAB CONSTRUCTION technique:

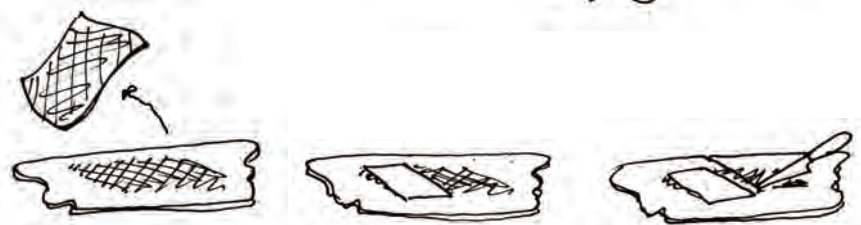
1. Cut out the templates needed for the piece. You will need a template for the walls (front and back walls are different than side walls), bottom, lid, and window for the photo on vellum.

2. Roll out clay big enough for the piece you are making using the rolling pin and wood slats.

3. Remove the wood slats and place texture "sheet" on the clay. Using the rolling pin, embed the texture in the clay.



4. Remove the texture sheet and trim the clay to the size of the template THAT IS ABOUT 1/4" LARGER THAN THE TEMPLATE.



5. Repeat this process for the all walls and the lid. You DO NOT need to embed texture into the piece that will be the base, but you still need a clay slab for the base.

6. Stack all your pieces on a board (with scrap paper between pieces,) and bag up until tomorrow so the clay gets a little leather-hard.

NEXT DAY

7. Using the template pieces, carefully and exactly trim the pieces to the exact size of the templates.

8. Using the bevel cutter and working with the clay **texture-side down**, trim both sides and the bottom of each wall piece and trim all four sides of the bottom. **DO NOT USE THE BEVEL CUTTER ON THE LID PIECE.**

9. Score the bevel cuts of all the pieces.

10. Using slip, attach the bottom of one side to the base.

11. Take a second side and slip it to the bottom and adjacent side of the piece you previously attached.

12. Continue until all four sides are attached to the base and each adjacent wall.



Lantern Lid

5.75" x 3.75"

Lantern Side Walls

3" x 6"

