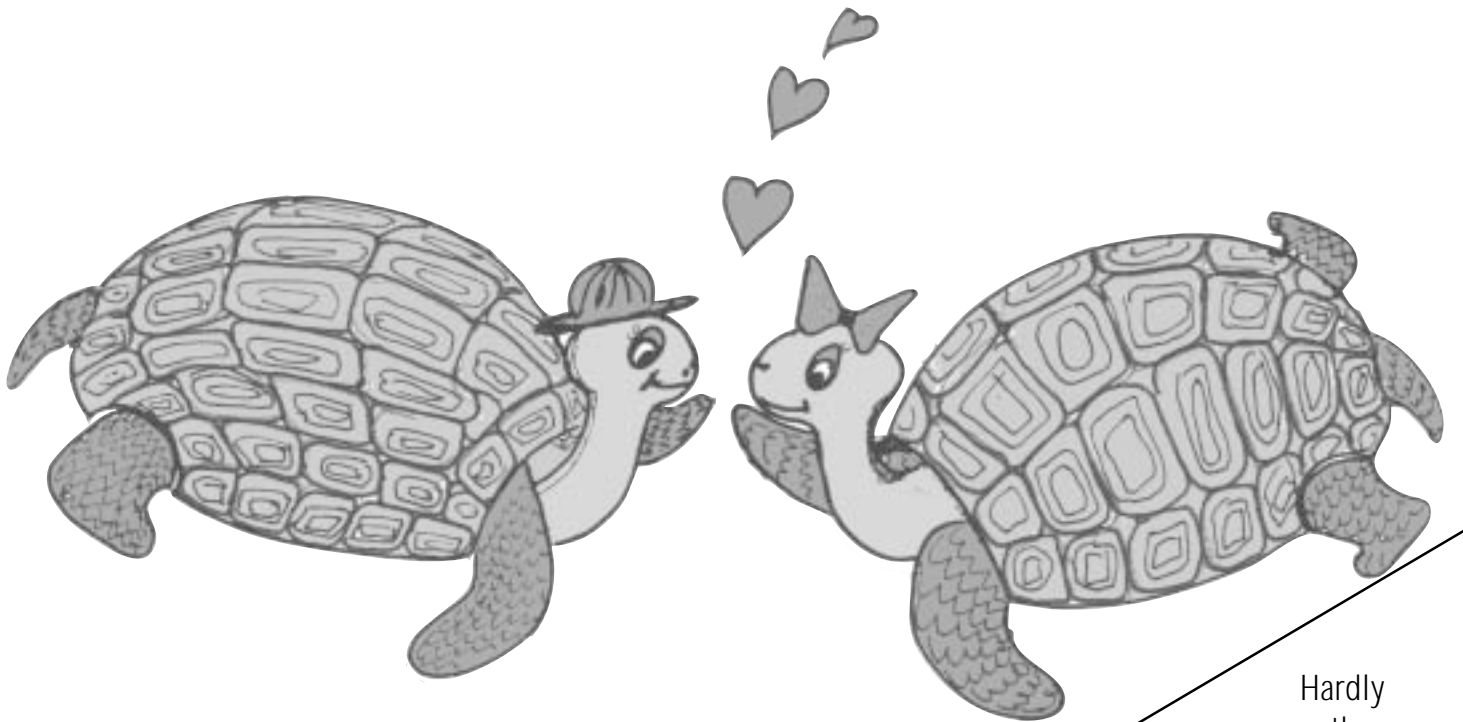# pottery - tips

Number 4: Turtle Couple

You need:

Wire to cut
Wooden modeling tool or pencil
Pottery cutting needle or toothpick
Wire loop modeling tools

And … clay!

Hardly any other known animal radiates as much peace and composure as the turtle.

It animates us to slow down a bit, which is not always easy in this fast-moving time.

Just follow the example of our turtle couple. They stopped time and enjoy their life.

Now try your luck and read this instruction very slowly, as the turtle would do it...

Sabine Harlan, Professional Potter
Nabertherm

The kiln to success:
Nabertherm-Kiln **top 60**

① For bigger objects (more than 10 cm) we would recommend the use of dead clay. The modeled objects are less likely to break this way. Open the bag of clay and cut off a small piece of clay with the **cutting wire**. Don't forget to close the bag, because the clay will dry up. Add water to some clay and mix it: that is going to be the "glue" for all doughs.   It's called slip. If you have only a small piece of clay it is sufficient to dip it into water.
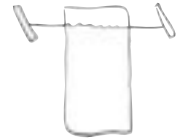
② Form a ball and divide it in half. The ball is going to become the shell and determines the size of the turtle. Press one big dent in the front and three small dents in the back. Head, feet and tail will be put in those spots later on.

③ Model four thick sausages, two discs and one drop for feet and tail. Squeeze two sausages slightly (forelegs) and press the other two on the discs and spread it carefully (hindlegs).
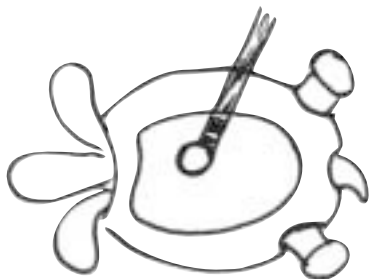
④ One thick sausage and one ball will be head and neck. Once you have put them together don't forget to spread them!

⑤ Now spread slip on all connecting parts of legs, tail and neck. Press them into the right place

⑥ To avoid that our turtle cracks when firing, use the **wire loop** to hollow it out.

⑦ Now only the eyes are missing. Dent two holes for eyes and nostrils, form two small balls, dip them into water and fix them carefully in the eye sockets. Use the **tool** or **pencil** to make two small holes into the eyes.

⑧ If you want, form a small hat (a small ball fixed on a disc) for the male turtle or a bow for the female turtle.

⑨ At last carve the structure in the shell with the **needle**. Now your turtle is complete! Check if you have spread everything and let the turtle dry for **two weeks** before you fire it.

Number 4 (englisch), Oktober 2002 / Details without guarantee