

# pottery - tips

## Number 7: The Hungry Crocodile



### You need:

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

### And ... clay!

You don't have to go all the way to Florida to see a crocodile. Just visit one in the nearest zoo or ... make yourself a crocodile out of clay.

Our crocodile "Kroko" looks at least as frightening as a real one but it is absolutely harmless- although it has 64 teeth!

Give it a try and.... good luck!



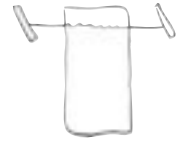
*Sabine Harlan*

Sabine Harlan, Professional Potter  
Nabertherm

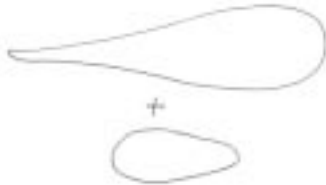
The kiln to success:  
Nabertherm-Kiln top 60



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 small pieces of clay it is sufficient to dip them into water.

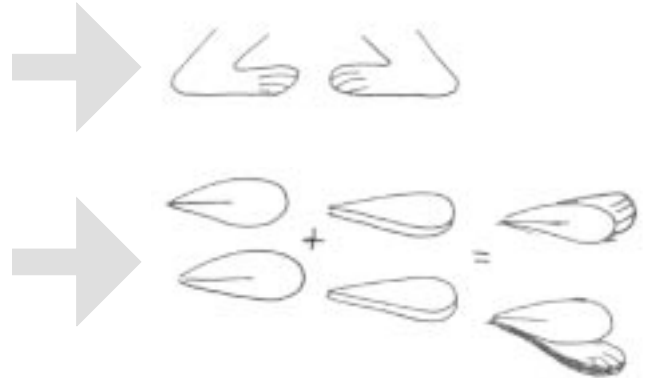


② At first you should model the crocodile's body. Model a big sharp drop and a small blunt drop, then put them firmly together and spread it.



④ Form two sausages and bend them: they will be the forefeet. Press the forelegs tight to the body. Form two more sausages for the hindlegs. Press them into a U-shape. Squeeze two drops flat and glue them with the slip under the U-shaped pieces, spread the edges. The hind leg and sole are now complete.

③ After modeling the body it should look like this From the top...and from the side.



⑤ Use a **knife** to cut a mouth underneath the middle and open it. Model two balls for the eye humps and another one for the nose. Press them tight on the right spot of the body and spread them. Use a **pencil** or a **wooden modeling tool** to make two little holes in the nose.



⑥ Model a few thin sausages, dip them into water and press them on the back and also in the mouth. Now use a **knife** or a **cutting wire** to cut little pieces out of those sausages and your crocodile has teeth (real crocodiles have 64 teeth) and spikes. Now your crocodile looks far more dangerous



⑦ Last but not least the crocodile needs eyes. Press two big holes in to the humps. Form two little balls, dip them into water and put them carefully into the holes. Use the **tool** or **pencil** to press a small line in each ball for pupils-and the eyes are done.



⑧ Your crocodile might crack if air is locked in the clay. To avoid this the body has to be hollowed out from the bottom with a **wire loop**. If the crocodile looks right, dry it for **approx. 2 weeks**.



⑨ If you wish you can model lots of bones for your crocodile.

