

# Anatomy of a Clay Whistle



1. Using two walnut size balls of clay, make two pinch pots with the same diameter rim.



2. Put the two pinch pots rim to rim and pinch the seam together to join.



3. Smooth and seal the seam using your fingers.



4. You can paddle the seam to smooth the seam. Paddling will also aid in forming the clay into the shape you want without collapsing it. Set the form aside to set up a bit.



5. Roll a coil to form the air tube. Insert a narrow dowel through the coil and press the clay to form around it. Gently remove the dowel. Allow to set up a bit.



6. When your hollow form is firm enough to handle without distorting, use the blunt end of a needle tool to create a hole through the wall.



7. Use a needle tool to carve away the “depth” of the clay wall on one side of the hole. Your goal is to create a crisp edge on the rim that angles inward.



8. Opposite the crisp edge, carve a trough for the air tube to rest in.



9. Position the air tube in the trough so the end is in line with the edge of the hole.

10. Using a soft thin coil, support the air tube in position. Working the air tube up and down, position it where you get the best sound. The idea is to “slice” the air on the crisp edge opposite the air tube.



11. Blend the thin coil into the body of the whistle and the air tube. Sponge to smooth if needed. Any movement in this process can be adjusted before allowing to dry to gain the best sound. Your basic whistle is complete.

12. You can decorate your whistle.

Additional small holes may be added for fingering to achieve different sound tones. More than one tone makes your whistle an ocarina.

