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POTTERY/CERAMICS PROCESSING STAGES

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Introduction

De Lorenzo strongly believe that everyone has the right to learn and everyone can learn, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. Through that belief, De Lorenzo has designed a number of inclusive working environments to provide effective training and human resource development, as a response to the global challenge of providing support to people with disabilities. The aim is to help and support the development of their abilities, thus, giving them the possibility to find a suitable employment.

The laboratory presented herein has been designed to allow people that must use wheelchairs for self-transportation actually make pottery artefacts, starting from the stick of clay up to the finished and decorated product.



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To produce clay artefacts, it is necessary to perform a sequence of processing steps, starting from the stick of clay:

- **Phase 1: Preparation of the clay**

During this phase, we proceed to knead the clay, with the aim of eliminating any air bubbles and make the dough compact. This operation allows us to prevent the formation of cracks in the finished product. For this phase, it is suggested the use of the mixer model DL 65IP.



- **Phase 2: Cut**

In this phase, we proceed to cut the strand of clay made with the mixer to the desired size.

For this phase, it is suggested the use of the manual cutter model DL 62RE.

- **Phase 3a: Hand building**

Once the obtained dough of clay is of the desired size, we pass to the phase of forming, using a lathe composed of a turntable and of a system that activates the rotation.

A mass of clay is put to the centre of the turntable, taking care to position it perfectly in the centre, and the clay is modelled with the use of hands or with accessory tools while adjusting the rotation of the turntable.

In the case of our lathes, the adjustment of the speed of the turntable is carried out through the breath of the operator in a suitable mouthpiece.

For this phase, it is suggested the use of the turntable model DL 51TD or DL 52FB.

- **Phase 3b: Pressure casting**

For this type of operation, we use harder clay, and the moulds are mounted on a machine called press. For this phase, it is suggested the use of the pneumatic press model DL 57PS.

- **Phase 4: Drawing**

If the artefact is a jar, a jug or a cup, it is possible that handles will be needed and that can be made with the die model DL 67TR.

- **Phase 5: Drying**

Whatever the technique that has been adopted, it is necessary that the clay products dry completely.

In this phase, we do not need any specific equipment. A homogeneous and uniform drying is a guarantee of durability of the finished product and especially the coherence of its form. Only after this stage you can proceed with the firing.

- **Phase 6: Firing**

After the delicate stage of drying, we proceed with that of the firing. This is done in special furnaces and the process can take a long time.

For this phase, it is suggested the use of the electric oven model DL 55FE.



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- **Phase 7: Decoration**

After firing, we pass to the pictorial decoration which is usually done by hand with a brush and ceramic colours. These ceramic colours are derived from mineral oxides or from metal oxides with the addition of hardeners. For this phase, it is suggested the use of the workstation for decoration model DL 60IL.



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KNEADER FOR CLAY



DL 65IP

Machine for preparing the dough of clay.

The machine is designed to mix and amalgamate the mixture, forming a round strand at the output that can be of various diameters, by mounting the different accessories.

Also, it is possible to equip the machine with specific terminals for drawing the most varied shapes.

Ergonomically designed to be very easily used while sitting on a wheelchair.

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MANUAL CUTTER FOR CLAY



DL 62RE

Designed for use by people with disabilities, seated in a wheelchair.

It is conveniently used by placing the clay to be cut on the table top and adjusting the height of the wire connected to the supporting arc by means of the flyer positioned at the side of the operator.

Upon request, it can also be made available with electric control, by pressing a simple button.

ELECTRONIC LATHE FOR CERAMICS



DL 51TD

The machine is provided with control of the rpm through a BREATH mouthpiece.

Safety mat. Lighting system. Elevated perimetric storage shelf. Scraps collection tank at the side of the worktop.

Dimensions: 1300 mm. (L) x 870 mm. (D) x 800 mm. (H work plane) + 200 mm. (H perimetric shelf)

Weight: 70 Kg

Voltage: 220 V, 500 W

Accessories on request:

- turntable tool kit
- splash guard ring



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ELECTRONIC LATHE FOR CERAMICS



DL 52FB

The machine is provided with control of the rpm through a BREATH mouthpiece.

Safety mat. LED lighting system. Elevated perimetric storage shelf in Plexiglas. Shelves on the left side to place tools.

Dimensions: 1450 mm. (L) x 1250 mm. (D) x 850 mm. (H work plane) + 200 mm. (H perimetric shelf)

Weight: 155 Kg

Voltage: 220 V, 600 W

Accessories on request:

- turntable tool kit
- splash guard ring

PNEUMATIC PRESS



DL 57PS

Semi-automatic pneumatic press for clay artefacts moulding.

3 tons model.

Both manual and BREATH control.

Compressed air operation.

Safety manual controls.

Side protections from the pressing zone with safety contacts. Front automatic protection with safety contact and photocell.

Air system for separating the moulded pieces.

Dimensions: 950 mm. (L) x 950 mm. (D) x 1850 mm. (H)

Weight: 140 kg

Voltage: 220 V for power installation, 24 V for controls and safety.

MANUAL DRAWING MACHINE



Device for the extrusion of clay drawn to make handles for cups, glasses, jugs, etc.



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DL 67TR

ELECTRIC OVEN



DL 55FE

Electric oven for pottery/ceramics.

Complete with variable height supports, to facilitate the loading and unloading of the articles to be fired. Electrical system for height adjustment by means of a simple button.

Dimensions: 30 lt, 780 mm. (L) x 700 mm. (D) x 1250 mm. (H)

Electric power: 220 V, 350 W.

WORKSTATION FOR DECORATION



DL 60IL

Designed to perform multiple tasks: decoration - drawing - engraving etc., while comfortably seated in a wheelchair.

On the left side there is a turntable, adjustable in height, to decorate, engrave, refine pots etc.

Still on the left there is a lectern, where to position the images to be copied.

In front of the operator, there is the work surface with adjustable inclination, a tool holder and a support to hold the objects to be decorated, adjustable in various positions.

On the right hand side there is a brush holder.

On the central pillar, under the work surface, you will find a storage compartment. The height of the work surface is adjustable at different heights.

Dimensions: 1050 mm. (L) x 1000 mm. (D) x 1200 mm. (H in working position)

VIDEO



Video that illustrates the different phases for the realization of artefacts in ceramics.