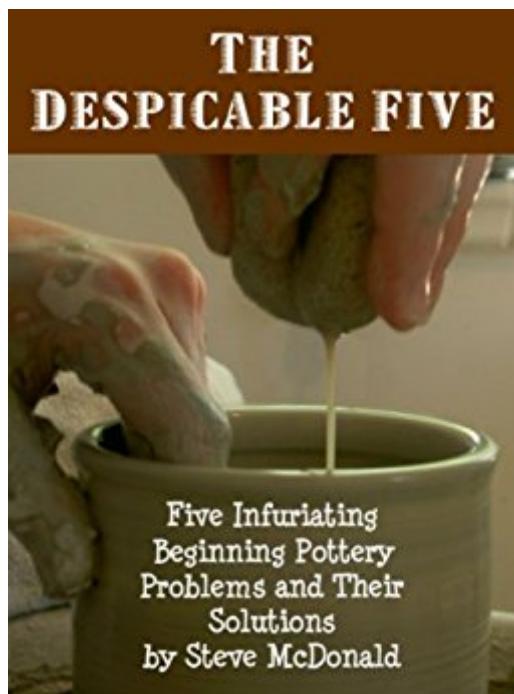


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# The Despicable Five - Five Infuriating Beginning Pottery Problems And Their Solutions



## **Synopsis**

Pottery making is a fun and rewarding craft. However, beginning potters, new to throwing on the wheel, face a very steep learning curve. The steepness of this learning curve causes many would-be ceramic artists to quit just before they reach the top of the hill. The Despicable Five was designed to teach you how to overcome the five most infuriating and insidious problems that every beginning potter will face. These ceramic catastrophes can hit you on your first day working with clay, or after you have thrown pots a hundred times. Armed with the knowledge in this little guide, you'll be able to overcome these ceramic challenges in a fraction of the time. You can read this guide in an hour or two, but it is packed with tips and tricks to drastically improve your experience as a beginning potter. The Despicable Five are:- The Centering Death Wobble- An Ugly Bottom (too thin or a volcano forming in the center)- Pinching through the Walls (the most insidious)- Cracks in the Bottom of the Pot (you only notice AFTER the pot is finished)- Wobbly Walls (why won't my pot come up straight?) All of these problems are solved in the book, with additional tips and advice along the way. \*\* New! Added June 24th, 2013\*\* Bonus link to 8 pottery videos that I created to help you see the correct techniques for the whole throwing process from start to finish.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is way too simplistic to be very useful. For each of the five problems there are a number of other possible causes and solutions that are not addressed. I started off as a self taught thrower, then took lessons, and have taught lessons for a number of years. There are so many little things that can frustrate the beginning potter that advice like that to get better clay is more of a distraction than a solution. If you are serious about learning to throw, take lessons or at least work with an experienced potter who can watch you throw and help you correct the problems you are having. Books can also help, but you need one with step by step instructions and lots of pictures. You Tube videos can also be helpful.

Steve McDonald perfectly nails the five troublesome problems that all new potters experience with both an explanation of what caused it and how to solve it. His sense of humor makes for an easy, pleasant read. Although I wish had a bit more length to it (mainly because I enjoyed his writing style), it did help me as the world's worst potter trying to unclaim that title.

I wasn't looking to be a pottery artisan. I just wanted to stop the clay from shooting off the wheel. The book helped correct my mistakes and gave me the confidence to keep at it. Practice, practice, practice.

Directions were easy to understand. Solutions made sense. Eager to give them a try. Made me feel better to know that your first pot can be better than your second and there is still hope for the future.

I'd recommend this book for beginner throwers. Do not let you beginning problems throw you off learning to throw! When you look back at your progress - it took me just 2 weeks - you'll be so pleased with yourself. It's worth sticking to until you get the results you are looking for.

I am new to pottery throwing and feel this book gives some very good information to help me to not get frustrated when I may encounter one of the issues noted in this book. Thanks Steve and I'll be checking out your videos on the web.

As a potter/teacher, I'm all over the place when it comes to what to do with a lump of clay. While putting slabs together to create a piece is all some students choose to do, an introduction to the wheel can help them move forward and grow. When I saw the booklet, I had to download it, and wasn't disappointed. I needed a review, too! Coincidentally, the studio where I play in the clay, is

offering a throwing class today. I'll definitely recommend the book!

If more beginners would read your book my job as a pottery teacher would be easier!Beginners remember Rome was not built in a day.the more pots you make the better you will get after the first 100 you will start to get better..The five infuriating problems and their solutions will be posted on the walls in my wheel area at my studio

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