

# Thematic Clay Picture Frames

from AMACO (American Art Clay, Co., Inc)

Students select their favorite photo and design a custom picture frame to display it. Beginning with a simple slab, students create an overall shape and enhance it by adding more shapes, and by modeling, carving and texturizing the clay before it is dried and fired. After the bisque firing, the picture frames will be painted and decorated using the new **AMACO® Teacher's Choice and Teacher's Palette** low-fire glazes.

## Grade Levels K-6

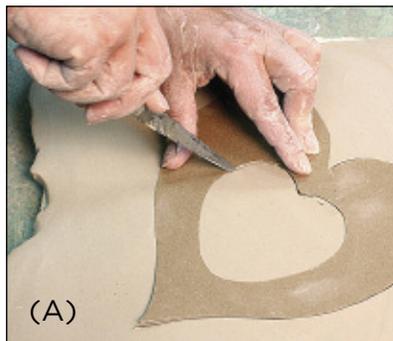
*Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

## Preparation

1. Select a photo to be framed and determine its most important theme. Examples: "Summer holidays", "My cousin's wedding," or "Love of mother and child."
2. On drawing paper, sketch the desired shape and size of the frame to fit over your photo. Remember that the clay will shrink approximately 10%, so make the frame opening a little larger than necessary. The shape can be drawn freehand or to mimic the theme of the photo. Be sure to make the frame at least 1" wide all around.
3. Cut out the frame shape to create a template.

## Process

1. As an option, cover a board or heavy piece of cardboard with canvas or newspaper. This will help the slab dry evenly and keep it from warping. With a rolling pin or slab roller, flatten the clay to approx 3/8" thick, and then transfer it to the board.
2. Smooth the clay slab surface using a rib, and then place the template face-up on the slab. Use a knife to cut around the template to create the exterior and interior contours of the frame, see (A).



## Materials

AMACO® No. 25 White Art Clay, 50-lb package (30505-1025); need 1 to 1-1/2 lbs per student

AMACO® Teachers Choice Glazes, gallons, assorted colors (30477-); share selection across class

AMACO® Teacher's Palette Glazes, assorted colors (30476-); share selection across class

Wooden Rolling Pins, 10" (30345-1010); share one between two students

Blick® White Sulphite Drawing Paper, 80-lb, package of 100 sheets, 9" x 12" (10209-1043)

Clay Modeling Tools, set of 36 (30304-1009); share set across class

Royal Langnickel® Ceramic Glaze Brushes, set of 16 (06060-1016); share two sets across class

## Optional Materials

Wooden boards or heavy cardboard to support the clay while drying

Hygloss™ Ribbon Rainbow (61498-1009)

AMACO® Brent® SRC Slab Roller (30213-0000)

