

## Hand Position Repertoire

In this study we analyzed the hand positions of the potter all along the shaping process. A hand position is the way the potter places his fingers on the lump of clay for each gesture. These hand positions are the only observable element of skill which could guide the novice during the apprenticeship. In fact, expert potters often encourage the novice to observe and copy their hand positions. Four main operations can be distinguished in the shaping process: the centering, the hollowing, the thinning and the final shaping. Generally, a specific hand position is used for a particular operation. The same position can be used by several potters and also for the same operation.

We have systematically observed (on video) the hand positions used by 13 expert potters (seven French and six Indian Multani) producing 10 sphere shaped vessels (five small and five large) in their traditional way (i.e. using their habitual wheel and their regular clay raw material). We have assigned a code to each position identified (N=62 distinct hand positions). The following table summarizes for each hand position: vessel size (small vs. large pots), artisans (French vs. Multani), and idiosyncratic position or no. The red color indicates the idiosyncratic hand positions (i.e. hand position used by a single potter in one of the two groups).

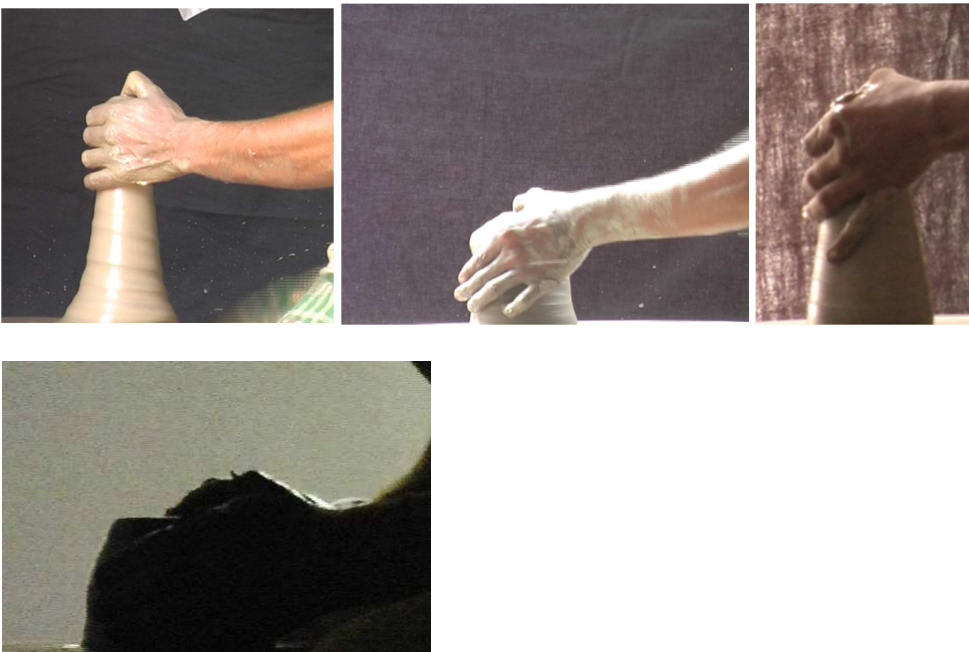
hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani	hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
1	x	x	x	x	32	x	x	x	
2	x	x	x	x	33	x	x	x	
3	x	x		x	34	x	x	x	
4	x	x		x	35	x	x	x	
5	x	x		x	36		x	x	
6	x	x	x		37	x	x	x	
7	x	x	x	x	38	x	x	x	
8	x	x	x	x	39	x	x	x	
9	x	x		x	40	x	x	x	
10	x	x	x	x	41	x		x	
11	x	x	x	x	42	x	x	x	
12	x	x	x		43	x	x	x	
13	x	x	x	x	44	x	x	x	
14	x	x		x	45	x	x	x	
15		x	x		46	x	x	x	
16	x	x	x	x	47		x	x	
17	x	x	x	x	48	x	x	x	
18	x	x	x	x	49	x	x	x	
19	x			x	50	x		x	
20	x	x	x	x	51	x	x	x	
21		x		x	52		x	x	
22	x	x	x	x	53		x	x	
23	x	x	x	x	54	x	x	x	
24	x	x		x	55		x	x	
25	x	x	x	x	56	x	x	x	
26	x	x	x	x	57	x	x	x	
27	x	x	x	x	58		x	x	
28	x	x		x	59		x	x	
29	x	x	x	x	60		x	x	
30	x	x		x	61	x		x	
31		x		x	62		x	x	
					<b>total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>28</b>
Idiosyncratic Positions					<b>total</b>			<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>

*Hand position 1*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
1	x	x	x	x

*Hand position 2*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
2	x	x	x	x



*Hand position 3*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
3	x	x		x

*Hand position 4*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
4	x	x		x

*Hand position 5*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
5	x	x		x



*Hand position 6*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
6	x	x	x	

*Hand position 7*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
7	x	x	x	x



*Hand position 8*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
8	x	x	x	x

*Hand position 9*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
9	x	x		x

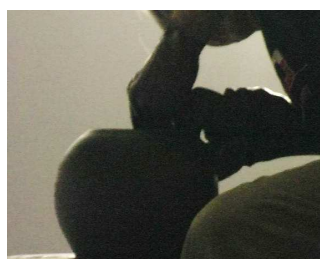
*Hand position 10*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
10	x	x	x	x



*Hand position 11*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
11	x	x	x	x

*Hand position 12*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
12	x	x	x	



***Hand position 13***

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
13	x	x	x	x

***Hand position 14***

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
14	x	x		x

***Hand position 15***

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
15		x	x	



*Hand position 16*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
16	x	x	x	x

*Hand position 17*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
17	x	x	x	x

*Hand position 18*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
18	x	x	x	x





*Hand position 19*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
19	x			x

*Hand position 20*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
20	x	x	x	x



*Hand position 21*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
21		x		x

*Hand position 22*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
22	x	x	x	x

*Hand position 23*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
23	x	x	x	x





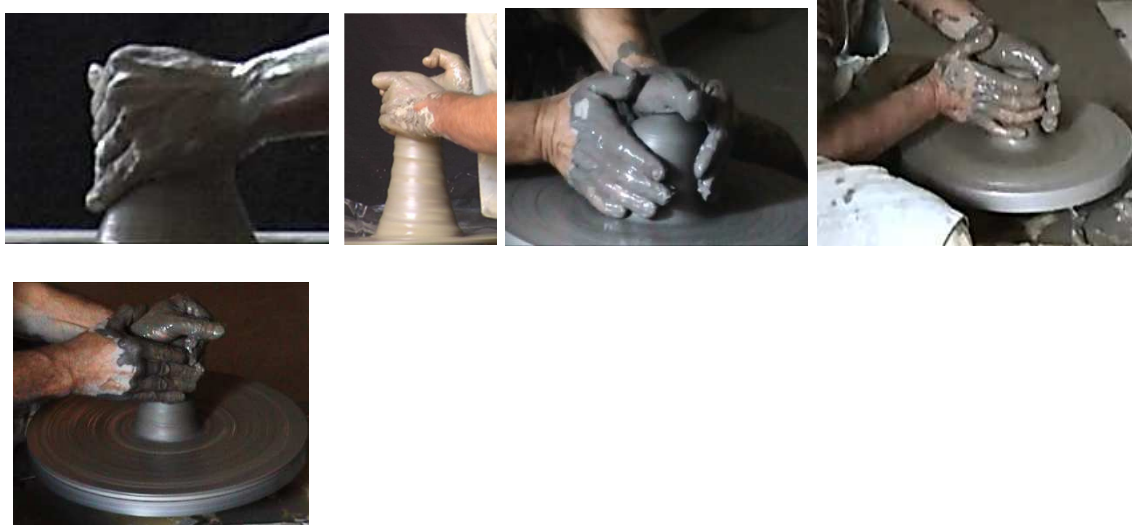
*Hand position 24*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
24	x	x		x



*Hand position 25*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
25	x	x	x	x



*Hand position 26*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
26	x	x	x	x

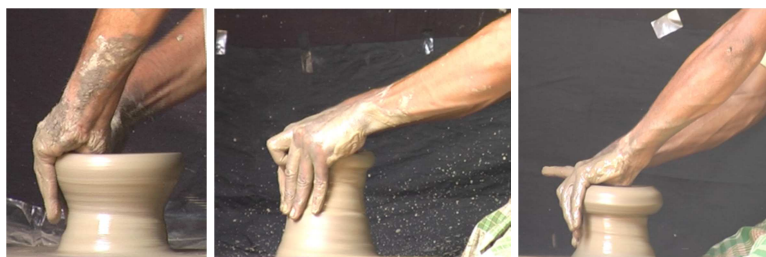
*Hand position 27*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
27	x	x	x	x



*Hand position 28*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
28	x	x		x

*Hand position 29*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
29	x	x	x	x



*Hand position 30*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
30	x	x		x

*Hand position 31*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
31		x		x

*Hand position 32*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
32	x	x	x	

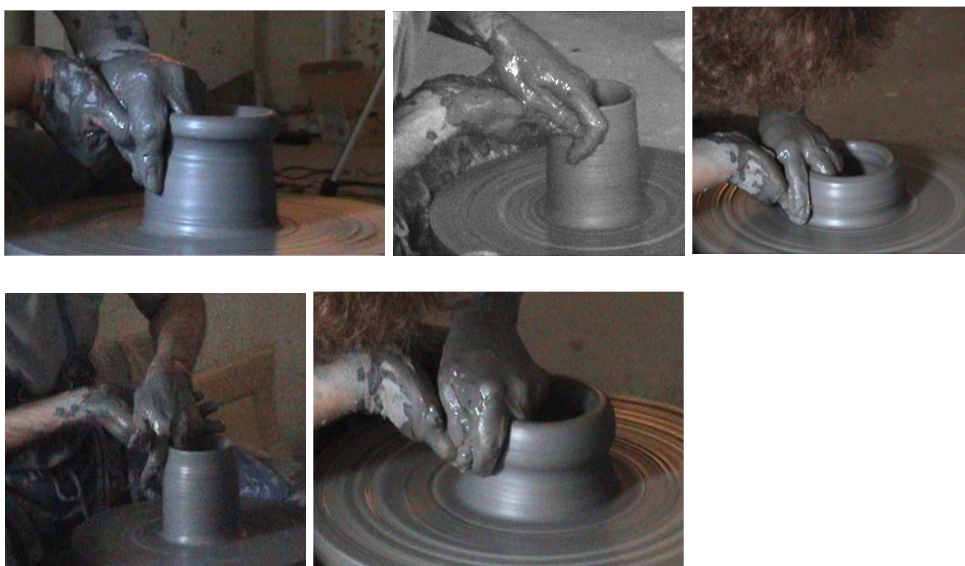


*Hand position 33*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
33	x	x	x	

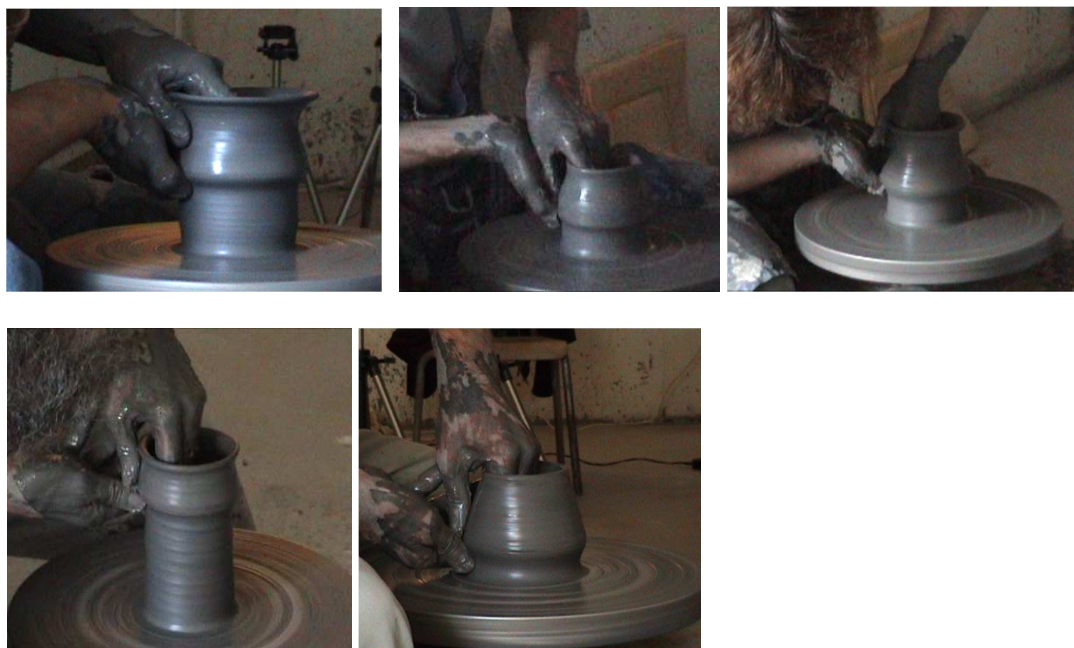
*Hand position 34*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
34	x	x	x	



*Hand position 35*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
35	x	x	x	

*Hand position 36*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
36		x	x	





*Hand position 37*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
37	x	x	x	

*Hand position 38*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
38	x	x	x	

*Hand position 39*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
39	x	x	x	



***Hand position 40***

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
40	x	x	x	

***Hand position 41***

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
41	x		x	

***Hand position 42***

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
42	x	x	x	



*Hand position 43*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
43	x	x	x	

*Hand position 44*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
44	x	x	x	

*Hand position 45*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
45	x	x	x	



*Hand position 46*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
46	x	x	x	

*Hand position 47*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
47		x	x	

*Hand position 48*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
48	x	x	x	



*Hand position 49*

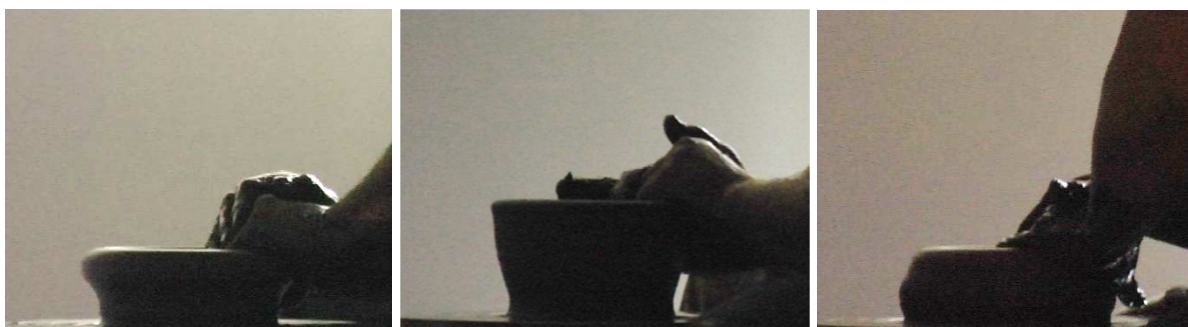
hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
49	x	x	x	

*Hand position 50*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
50	x		x	

*Hand position 51*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
51	x	x	x	





*Hand position 52*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
52		x	x	



*Hand position 53*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
53		x	x	



*Hand position 54*

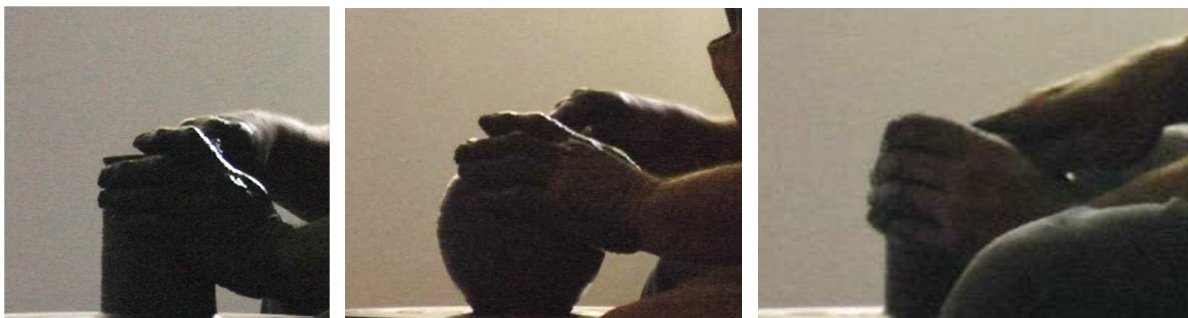
hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
54	x	x	x	

*Hand position 55*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
55		x	x	

*Hand position 56*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
56	x	x	x	





*Hand position 57*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
57	x	x	x	



*Hand position 58*

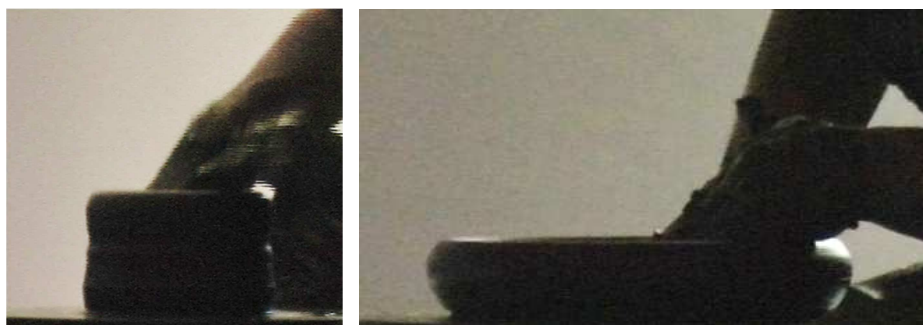
hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
58		x	x	





*Hand position 59*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
59		x	x	

*Hand position 60*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
60		x	x	

*Hand position 61*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
61	x		x	



*Hand position 62*

hand position	small sphere	large sphere	French	Multani
62		x	x	

