

Annex 2: Vessels – macroscopic analysis

Rim and neck

Outside

➤ Striations



K-05163



K-05282

➤ Shaving marks on the neck to straighten the wall



K-05007



K-05050

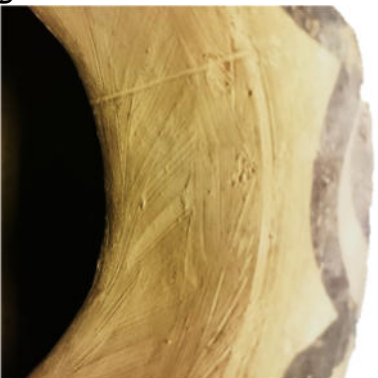
K-05465 might be an example where a funnel-like rim was made from a coil-built neck by pulling it outwards on a wheel. The inside of the neck is not as smoothed out and even as the inside of the rim. The striations from the rotating movement are visible on the inside of the rim.



K-05465

Inside

➤ Striations on the rim



K-05169

K-05053



➤ Remnant coils



K-05021



K-05124

➤ Shaping and coil-blending marks



K-05041

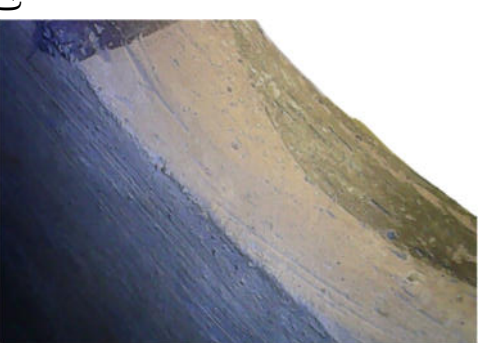


K-05132

The neck is built separately and connected to the shoulder. K-05050 has a fingerprint on the joint between neck and shoulder. The extra layer of clay overlapping the neck is securing the connection between the body and neck. In K-05123 the inside joints between shoulder and neck can be built at almost right angle.



K-05050 (inside colour yellow)



K-05123 (inside colour yellow)

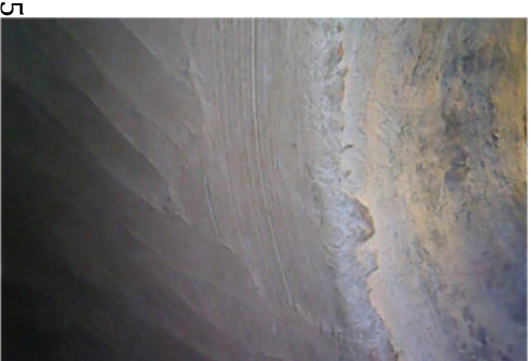
K-05053, K-05132 and K-05464 have drawing marks around the opening (inside colour yellow).



K-05053



K-05132



K-05465

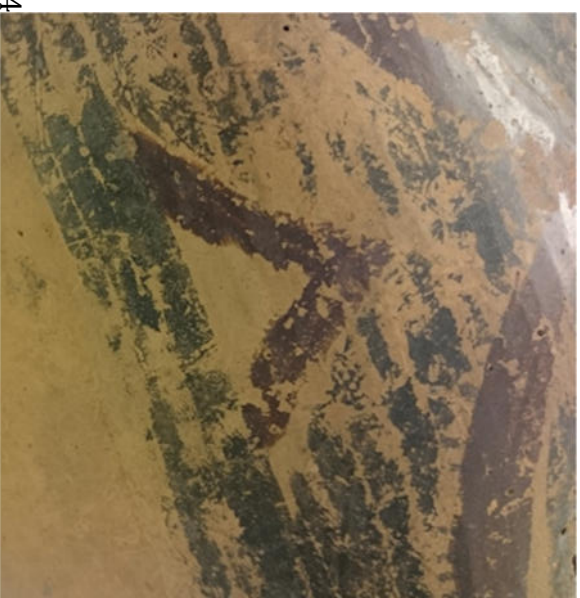
Upper body

Outside

➤ Shaping marks



K-05163



K-05114

These marks cannot be seen on the vessels with impressions and appliqué because that decoration covers the whole body.

Inside

➤ Drawing marks

With clear stroke orientation



K-05132 (inside colour yellow)



K-05059 (inside colour yellow)

With no clear stroke orientation



K-05126 (inside colour yellow)

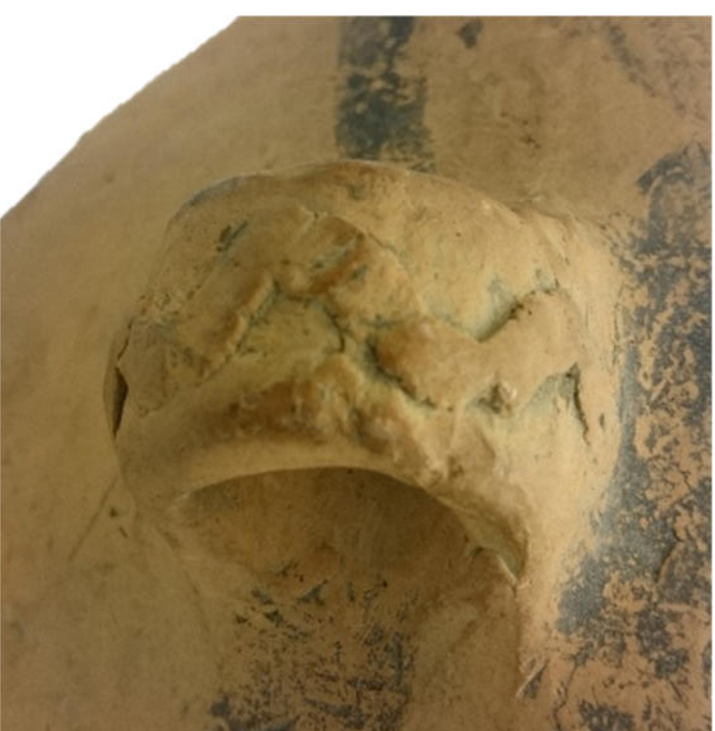
Handles

Outside

- The handles are made from one curled slab attached to the body and are undecorated on most observed vessels
- There is one example in the MFEA collection where handles are decorated with appliqué.



K-05115



K-05114

- Not-loop handles – knob-like grips?



K-05025



Inside

- Vessels can have a slight bump on the inside where the handle is attached on the outside, but this is not a common case.

Lower body

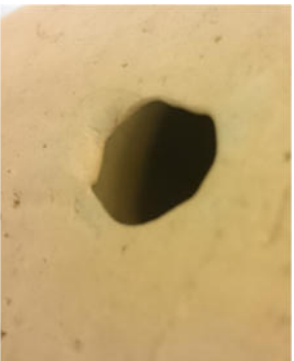
Outside

The lower body does not have a shiny polish. On large painted vessels of later Majiayao-style the lower body is usually left plain.



K-05053

The wall thickness can vary as could be inferred from the weight difference of vessels of similar shape and size during handling.
Large vessels can have thin walls of 2.9 mm (measured on K-05021).



K-05021



K-05021

Inside

➤ Remnant coils



K-05021(inside colour yellow)

➤ Smooth surface

K-05152 (photo: courtesy of Michel Lee; caption by the author)



K-05169 (inside colour yellow)



Base

Outside

➤ Flat and plain



K-05025



K-06384

- Coarse: very well visible coarse inclusions in contrast to the rest of the body



K-06150



K-06381

➤ Imprints of weaving work or basketry (?)



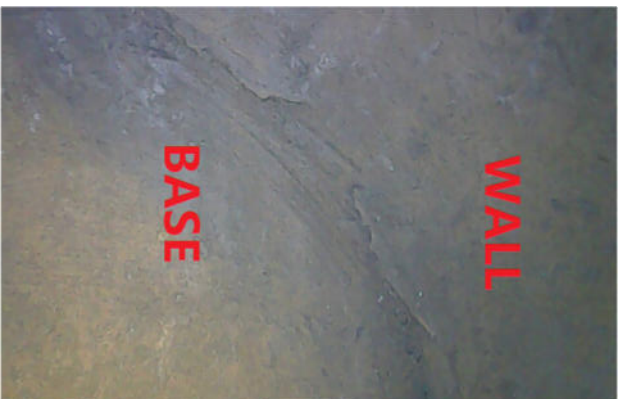
K-06309



K-06293

Inside

- Flat and even – K-5123 (inside colour reddish yellow)
- Uneven and bumpy – K-05006 (inside colour yellow)
- Scrap marks or imprint (?) – K-06292 (inside colour grey)



K-05123



K-05006



K-06292

Surface treatment

Painted

- Polished and glossy surface – very good paint preservation



K-05465



K-05169

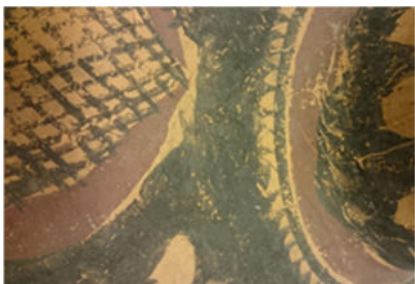


TEMP-0158

- On vessels where painted decoration is less well preserved, red pigment, or any pigment different from black (K-05165), seems to be preserved better than the black pigment.



K-05058



K-05058



K-05114



K-05464



K-05165

➤ Painted decoration on these vessels from Zhujiazhai is poorly preserved and almost completely faded.



K-02093



K-06381

Impressions and appliqué

- Cord impressions are covering the whole body. The relief has weathered in some places, but the orientation and depth can still be seen clearly. This decoration looks like it was wrapped around the whole body unfolding upwards in a spiral from the base (K-06292, K-06384). The impressions can also run in a straight line (K-05443, K-06306).



K-06292

K-06292



K-06384





K-05443



K-06306

- The appliqué decoration is applied along the circumference of the vessel (K-05443, K-06306). The impressions or incisions on K-06306 bands appear weathered. The bands could have been further decorated with impressions with a broad stick or fingers (?). Further, the appliqué bands can be impressed with the cord markings continuing on the main body (K-05443). This observation could mean that the cord decoration was impressed after the appliqué bands were attached to the body.

K-05279 shows a combination of polished but unpainted upper body and cord-impressed and lower body. A closer examination of the transition to the cord markings reveals faint impressions on the upper body as well. This could mean that the whole body was first covered in cord markings and the upper body was polished flat in the next step. This action resulted in a smooth transition between the polished surface and impressed decoration.



K-05279

Firing

Fully oxidised orange core Sherd from the vessel K-05279	Oxidised orange core and buff yellow margins K-05011, rim	Oxidised core, reduced margins K-06384, lower body	Reduced core and oxidised margins or reduced interior layer and oxidised exterior, K-05165, lower body
			

Special features

➤ Faded painted mark that was meant to be erased and/ or painted over?

K-05001



K-05007



K-05021



K-05123



K-05026





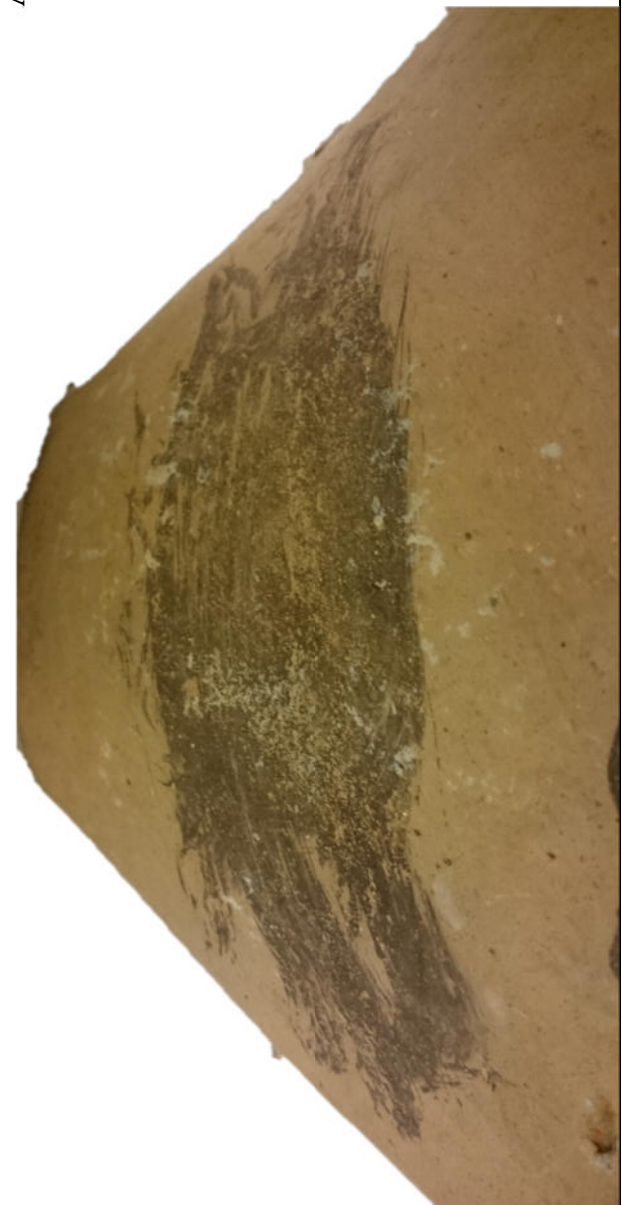
K-05159 - body middle

➤ Brush trial or potter mark?

K-05160 - just above the base



K-05146 - lower body



K-05464 – lower body