

Potter's Wheel Quality and Features Checklist

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Feature	What to look for	brent [®]	Wheel #1	Wheel #2	Wheel #3
<p>True Industrial grade, large frame motor.</p>	<p>Compare the physical size of Brent motors to those of other manufacturer's claiming to have more horsepower.</p>  <p>Remember...Motor Size = Torque! Anyone can play games with specs. It's what is "under the hood" that matters. Go ahead, crawl under the wheels to take a look!</p>				
<p>Plastic top deck with heavy gage, powder coated steel beneath.</p>	<p>Some wheels don't even have plastic decks surfaces with drip edges. These wheels tend to be a little messy.</p>  <p>Brent uses premium grade plastic, the same that they use for their excellent splash pans, for their decks. The contoured drip edge prevents clay and water from oozing over the side of the wheel to the component underneath.</p>				



Note the engineered aluminum mounting brackets under a Brent wheel (silver) as opposed to bent, thin metal supports in other wheels. Also noticed the tough powder coat paint (black). Black powder coat is paint that is actually baked onto the surface, making a very durable protective coating.

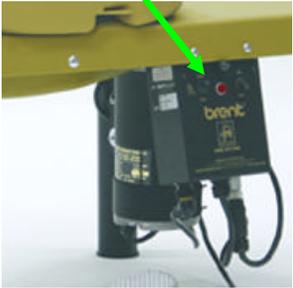
Premium grade, resilient, and easy to clean plastic drip table and splash pan.

Grab the splash pan and flex it.



Is the plastic pliable and flexible like on a Brent as pictured or is it very stiff and rigid? You want splash pans and drip surfaces to be flexible so that they are resistance to years of use and will not chip, crack, fracture or break. Plastic can get brittle over time so choose flexible splash pans!



<p>Splash Pan seams and ease of use.</p>	<p>Take a close look at the design of the splash pan. How do the two halves come together?</p>  <p>Will they hold a lot of water without leaking? Are they easy to install and remove from the wheel head without scratching the deck surface of the wheel? Are they tall enough to catch the spray from the wheel head without splashing your surrounding walls? Are they wide enough to accommodate large pieces, wide bats, etc?</p>				
<p>Reversible with the simple flip of a switch!</p>	<p>No messing around with clumsy, unreliable reversing plugs that get clogged with clay on a Brent. If you choose a wheel with a reversing feature, be sure to select only those wheels that are reversible with the flip of a switch.</p>  <p>Wheels that require you to unplug and replug the</p>				

	<p>rotation electrical cords can build up clay in the connections which can also cause high resistance and unreliable connections. Further, it is very inconvenient to have to switch a reversing plug when you are throwing and when your hands are wet. Be careful not to do this with wet or damp hands.</p>				
<p>Strongest Warranty in Industry</p>	<p>Check to see that the manufacturer is willing to stand behind their product! Brent has the longest and most comprehensive warranty in the industry; a full 5 Years! Check to see how long the manufacturer has been building pottery equipment. Ask others in the business about who has the best service and dealer network? The answer will be a unanimous Brent!</p>	<p> 5 Years!</p>			
<p>Belt Tensioner</p>	<p>This is a somewhat hidden but very important component in a quality potters wheel. All Brent's have an integrated belt tensioner to keep proper force on the drive belt and pulley at all times. This ensures extremely long belt life and consistent wheel speeds, even under load.</p>	<p></p>			
<p>Metal Pulleys.</p>	<p>Go for wheels with metal drive pulleys, not plastic. Brent uses all metal pulleys to ensure maximum life and wobble free, quiet performance in their wheels.</p>	<p></p>			
<p>Heavy</p>	<p>You want wheels with cast aluminum, structurally engineered</p>	<p></p>			

<p>Duty, Rust Free, cast aluminum foot pedal.</p>	<p>pedals, period. Like the one in this photo!</p>  <p>Stay away from wheels with pedals that are painted stamped metal with a piece of sandpaper glued to it. Such pedals, when scratched, can rust. And what happens to that sandpaper surface that you put your foot on over time? The same thing that happens to the non-slip surfaces you apply to bath tubs, they peel and wear off.</p> <p>Remember, pedals are on the floor and they do get wet and see a lot of abuse from "heavy feet". Go ONLY for aluminum pedals (they are silver in appearance as opposed to brown) for durability. Aluminum pedals also operate more smoothly for as long as you own your wheel!</p>				
<p>High grade aluminum wheel head.</p>	<p>No plastic for your wheel heads, period! Again, aluminum wheel heads (like Brent uses) are silver in appearance and plastic wheel heads are brown.</p>  <p>Plastic heads can wear when tooling and can also become dimensionally unstable</p>				

	<p>over time. Also, when you screw bat pins in and out of plastic, it tends to when and the holes open up more easily than aluminum.</p>				
<p><u>Metal</u> bearing set and carriers (supports).</p>	<p>Watch out for plastic bearing carriers in many other brands as they are more likely to wobble over time. These are the important things you cannot see on the surface! Look under the wheel head to see what hold the spindle to the frame. Would you want plastic pieces hold the bearings and axles on your car?</p>				
<p>Most Extensive Nationwide Dealer and Service Network.</p>	<p>Virtually any where you live, you will be able to find an authorized Brent Dealer and Repair Center. But if you also need to get service or assistance directly from the company that has been making pottery equipment and supplies the longest (since 1919), you can always get a hold of American Art Clay Co./Brent.</p>				