Pottery
and
Lost Wax Casting
West Africa: Handbuilding pots
West Africa: Firing pots
West Africa: Firing pots
West Africa: Bringing Pots to Market
West Africa: Bringing pots to market
Lost Wax Casting

Clay core     Wax and tool

Wax rods (drains) and wax cup

Layers of fine and coarser textured clays finish the mold

After heating the mold, the wax drains out

Molten metal

Finished cast
Modern Cast Copper Alloy Head from Benin City, Nigeria. Clay cores awaiting wax.
Adding wax to clay core
Benin City 2004 – to create mold for casting.
Lost Wax Technique: Creating sprues – Benin City 2004
Lost Wax Technique: Pit for Casting

Wax rods (drains) and wax cup

Layers of fine and coarser textured clays finish the mold

After heating the mold, the wax drains out

Molten metal

Finished cast
Lost Wax Technique: Filing and polishing (chasing) casts after removing mold.
Benin cast copper alloy figures - 20th century - Nigeria
Benin cast copper alloy figures
17th century
Nigeria

Benin cast copper alloy figures
REPLICAS
20th century
Nigeria