

# GLAZE NOTES

## GENERAL:

- 1) Glazes, slips, washes and stains must be mixed very thoroughly before using. Even if a glaze has been sitting for a few minutes between usage, it must be stirred again to insure that all materials are in uniform suspension.
- 2) Glaze buckets must be kept closed(lids on) whenever not in use to avoid evaporation and contamination of glazes(many glazes look similar in the raw state).
- 3) Before applying a glaze, be sure to check its consistency. If it seems too thick, test it on a bisqued tile(2nd drawer next to sink). A single layer of glaze(held in glaze bucket for about six seconds) should result in a layer about the thickness of your thumb nail. If confusion persists, check with Mr. Ceramics. Always store glazes with bucket lids fully seated to prevent evaporation of water from glaze.
- 4) Always use a clean damp sponge to wipe down your pieces before glazing them. This removes dust and minimizes the possibility of glazes crawling when fired. Also, use a piece of silicon carbide shelf to grind off any sharp or ragged edges before applying glazes.
- 5) Pouring and dipping are good methods to use whenever possible as they minimize messy layered dripping of the glaze. Always remember to allow excess liquid glaze to run off a corner, or specific edge, of a pot until all dripping ceases.
- 6) In most cases, the interior of a pot or clay object should be glazed first(liner glaze). Any drips which run over the lip can be wiped off with a clean damp sponge before applying glazes on the exterior surfaces.
- 7) A layer of glaze should always be applied inside the foot ring on the base of a pot so that glaze compression on the pot is uniform inside and out. Flat-bottomed pieces obviously can't be glazed in this manner.
- 8) Glazes tend to run more when applied very thick and when layered with other glazes or washes. Keep this in mind when glazing and keep an eye on thickness as it develops on your pieces. If your glaze application begins to crack as it dries, you can be sure that you've applied it too thickly. In this case, wash off all glaze and dry bisqued object thoroughly before reglazing.
- 9) Glazes on the base of a glazed object must be thoroughly cleaned off up to the *top edge of the bevel*. If your piece has no bevel at its base, you must clean the glaze off the bottom 1/8" of the exterior wall.
- 10) NEVER EVER USE COBALT WASH ON TOP OF GLAZES ON THE EXTERIOR SURFACES OF A CERAMIC OBJECT. If you use cobalt wash on the outside of any form, it must be between layers of glaze or beneath the glaze AND it must be applied very thinly. It is a very powerful colorant and you don't need much at all.
- 11) NEVER SPRAY GLAZES WITHOUT USING A RESPIRATOR AND TURNING ON THE VENT FAN.
- 12) NEVER LEAVE EVEN A TEENY WEENY MESS FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO CLEAN UP. ALWAYS CLEAN UP THOROUGHLY, INCLUDING THE FLOOR, SINK, AND COUNTERS.

## STONEWARE:

- 1) Yellow mat, Blue Fake Ash and Woo Ash are heavy runners and must be applied very thin(quick dips or pours and not too heavy an application when spraying). In the bucket, when stirred they should be a watery consistency.
- 2) Rutile Green, Rutile Blue and Steve's Copper Red will run quite a bit if applied thick or in combination with other glazes or washes, but can be applied fingernail thick by themselves without worry.

## RAKU:

- 1) Baylor Luster must be applied very thin. It should have a thin cream consistency in the bucket when stirred up. It's got a lot of borax in it and, as a result, is pretty grainy when applied.
- 2) All other raku glazes are glassy and should be the consistency of heavy cream when stirred up. Application should be moderate thickness(thumbnail depth).