

Pocasin Arts Workshop with Shelsea Dodd: Creating Rich Low Fire Ceramic Surfaces

Recipes

*Note: I recommend using distilled water for glazes and washes, and terra sigillata and slips if possible! This will ensure uniformity in your surfaces even after a move, since tap water can differ greatly and affect your glazes.

Liz Zlot Summerfield Terra Sigillata

Water	3000g
Ball Clay (XX Sagger or OM4)	1500g
Sodium silicate	25g

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1tsp stain for 1/2 cup of sig

This will make a very large batch! I usually cut it in half, or cut it even smaller if you want to do a test batch.

1. Add water to bucket
2. Add sodium silicate (can use Darvan if you prefer)
3. Add ball clay and stir well
4. Let sit for 24hrs
5. Do not mix! Gently pour thin top liquid into separate bucket (this is the sig!), without letting the thick settled material in the bottom into the new bucket. You can either save this thick material to use as a slip or discard it.
6. The thin liquid you siphoned off is your terra sigillata. Let sit for at least 24hrs (I usually wait 2-3 days). It will last quite a long time. Just stir well before use!
7. If you wish to add stain, you can do so at this point. Make sure to test, but typically 1tsp of Mason stain per 1/2 cup of terra sig works well. Oxides may vary. If you stain the sig, remember to stir frequently while applying because the colorant will settle to the bottom.
8. Apply three coats to bone dry greenware, burnish if desired!

UAA White Slip ^04

OM4 ball	40
EPK	20
Nepheline syenite	15
Talc	15
Frit 3124	10

*A standard basic white slip if you want something a bit thicker than the terra sig.

Bartel Engobe ^04

Borax	4.5
Gerstley borate	9.1
Frit 3110	31.9
Ball clay	13.6
Kaolin	27.3
Silica	13.6

*Dissolve borax in water first, let sit 24hrs after mixing before use. This can be an interesting engobe to build surfaces on, but must be tested thoroughly!

Erdahl Activation Wash ^04 - ^6

Soda ash	2 cups
Borax	2 cups
Gerstley borate	1/2 tsp

*Mix 2 cups hot water for 1 cup powder. I have never mixed this much; I usually mix a small amount at a time right before use and discard the extra. Avoid touching the soda ash with bare hands. Test to achieve desired thickness/glossiness/etc.

Shelsea's Frit Wash ^04 - ^6

Frit 3124	2 parts
Mason stain	1 part

*Add water to the consistency of skim milk. You may have to play around with the ratio depending on the stain or oxide used, but this 2:1 has worked pretty well for me so far (again, be sure to test!). You can brush this on like a wash and sponge it off, or splatter it on with a toothbrush or the like. You can also mix frit in with your underglaze!

Kourtney's White ^04

Gerstley borate	38
Lithium carb	10
Neph sy	5
EPK	5
Silica	42
Zircopax	30

*A nice opaque satin low fire white glaze

Water Blue ^04

Frit 3110	72.5
Gerstley borate	4.5
Soda ash	4.5
EPK	7
Silica	9.5
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Bentonite	2
Copper carb	4.5

*Transparent gloss glaze with a pretty turquoise color

UAA Gloss Clear ^04

Frit 3134	30
Frit 3195	45
EPK	23
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Bentonite	2

*A basic clear gloss, takes stain well.

SDSU Crawl ^04

Borax	3.9
Gerstley borate	46.5
Magnesium carb	31
EPK	18.6
Zircopax	5

*Test for desired application! Thickness will determine amount of crawling. Can take stain as well.

Commercial Glazes ^05

- Amaco Matt Liquid Glazes LM-10 Transparent Matte
- Amaco Liquid Gloss Glazes LG-46 Leaf Green
- Amaco Lead Free Liquid Glazes F-10 Clear Transparent (Gloss)
- Any Amaco or Mayco glazes, just be sure to test! You can add colorant to the clear glazes; I also really like their low fire satin line as well. You can mix them together to create new colors.
- Amaco or Speedball underglazes

Shelsea's Slow Bisque Firing Schedule ^04

R1 - 80/hr to 180, hold for 4hrs
R2 - 80/hr to 250, hold for 4hrs
R3 - 100/hr to 450, no hold
R4 - 150/hr to 1000, no hold
R5 - 100/hr to 1100, no hold
R6 - 200/hr to 1945, no hold

*This is a very conservative firing and you can adjust the preheat to your liking. I typically let my work dry for at least two weeks before bisquing. I try to let the kiln cool naturally.

Shelsea's Color Set/Glaze Firing Schedule ^06

R1 - 150/hr to 1000, no hold
R2 - 100/hr to 1100, no hold
R3 - 200-250/hr to 1850, no hold

*This firing takes about 12hrs, similar to the cone fire "slow" firing setting. (For small work or pottery you can get away with the "medium" speed.) I bisque to ^04, color set to ^06, and the final firing is usually to ^05 but depends on what glazes I have used. It is especially important to let the final glaze firing cool naturally for optimal glaze results.