

J.C Epiphany

Color Pigment Oxides

Using Color Oxides with Ceramics

Enhance your ceramic creations with vibrant and dynamic colors using color oxides. Follow these step-by-step instructions and tips to achieve stunning results:

1. Applying Oxides to Greenware, Bisque, and Glaze:

Brush the oxides directly onto greenware, bisque, or glaze surfaces to introduce color to your ceramics.

2. Mixing Oxides with Slip for Custom Colors:

Create custom colors by mixing oxides with slip. For uniform colors, ensure thorough mixing. For a more spontaneous, blotchy effect, mix sparingly.

3. Oxide Wash Over Unfired Glaze:

Apply an oxide wash over an unfired glaze layer, then fire the piece. Handle with care to avoid smudging the oxide during the process.

4. Combining Oxides with Glaze:

Brush oxides onto the clay surface before applying glaze. To prevent the oxide from brushing off, consider dipping or spraying the glaze. Set aside some glaze to prevent oxide contamination in your entire batch. Generally, the intensity of the oxide wash will affect its bleed-through in the glaze.

5. Enhancing Consistency with Ball Clay:

Improve consistency and tone down the color by mixing ball clay with your oxide-water mixture.

6. Layering Different Oxides:

Experiment with multiple oxides by brushing them on, overlapping in certain areas for unique color effects.

7. Sgraffito Technique:

Apply oxide using a brush and let it dry. Then, use a sharp tool to scratch through the oxide layer to reveal the clay underneath. Cover it with transparent or translucent glaze. Alternatively, apply oxide over unfired glaze and repeat the sgraffito process.

8. Wax Resist and Oxide:

Create interesting textures by spattering wax on the ceramic surface and painting the oxide wash over it.

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9. Masking Techniques:

Utilize various masking techniques, such as torn wet newspaper, to create patterns. Paint an oxide wash over the masked areas for striking designs.

10. Oxide Patterns and Transfers:

Experiment with oxide patterns by sprinkling different oxides on newspaper. Place leather-hard objects onto the oxide mixture or use Styrofoam or a sponge to transfer the oxide to your piece. Maintain the pattern as it lands, or manipulate it to create unique effects. If single-firing, you can add glazes; otherwise, bisque the piece and then apply glazes. The oxides will interact with the glazes during firing.

Additional Tips:

Oxides are potent colorants, so use them sparingly. A solution containing 2-8% oxide is generally sufficient; excessive use may result in a black hue.

Always wear a respirator or mask when handling dry oxides to protect your health.

Remember that using oxides in ceramics can yield unpredictable yet often beautiful outcomes. Don't forget to conduct tests and keep detailed notes to refine your techniques.