

GLAZE TESTING INSTRUCTIONS

Need: One larger mixing container, 5 smaller containers (i.e. yogurt containers).

1. Use a calculator to multiply your 100 gram glaze test by **3 times to increase it to 300 grams.**
2. Make sure the studio has all of the items needed in your glaze recipe. Some of the items are on the shelves with the oxides, and some are in the WHITE larger containers to the right of these shelves, or on the floor in front (i.e. kaolin, nepheline syenite, ball clay, etc.).
3. Measure out each ingredient carefully using the scales. Make sure the scales and sliders are all balanced at 0 with the measuring scoop included on them. Use the little silver wheel on the left hand side to fine balance to 0 mark.
4. Move the scales to the first measurement - the scale sliders go in 100's, 10's and 1's. The smaller increments between numbers on the single measurements would be a point measurement.
(i.e. 157.5 would move the 100 slider to the 100 mark, the 10 slider to the 50 mark, and the 7.5 measurement would use the forward slider to the 7 and then 5 smaller marks)
5. Measure out the first ingredient so that the indicator moves into balance again at 0, and place dry ingredient into a container large enough to hold the full recipe.
6. **REPEAT** for each individual ingredient measurement. **DO NOT ADD OXIDES YET.**
7. You should now have 300 grams of dry ingredients that make up your basic glaze.
8. Add water to the basic glaze recipe, and mix **THOROUGHLY**, getting rid of all bumps and lumps and adding enough water so that it is the right consistency for dipping your glaze test tile into - see the glaze intro handout for description - glaze should "drool" off your fingers in about 5 - 7 drops.
9. Divide the mixed glaze into 6 equal amounts in the smaller containers.
10. **TILE #1** Take the first glaze test tile and dip it into the first container about half way into the glaze. **DO NOT ADD ANY OXIDES TO THIS TILE - "CONTROL" TILE ONLY. DO NOT GLAZE THE ENTIRE TILE.** You need to see if the glaze drips or not when fired, and don't want it to get onto the kiln shelf if it does.
11. Dip the **same** tile again (double dip), only about one quarter of the tile, this time. This is to see how the glaze performs when a thinner single layer, and when a thicker, double layer. Doing this on the same tile saves time and effort.
12. **TILE # 2** Choose an oxide, or a combination of oxides, from the colour chart I handed out in class (also available online).
i.e. Add Cobalt 2%. Cobalt is a blue colourant.
In 100 grams of glaze, 2% cobalt measures out to 2 grams of cobalt added to the glaze. Since you have increased the glaze by 3, this makes the Cobalt addition for the entire batch 6 grams (2 gms x 3 batches = 6) **HOWEVER** you have divided the batch into 6 equal parts, so 6 grams divided by 6 equal parts would be only 1 gram.
Add this to one of your smaller containers, and dip the tile as you did for the Tile #1.
13. **REPEAT** for each of the remaining 4 smaller batches, choosing a different oxides for each new tile. You will have 1 tile of base glaze, and 5 tiles of glaze each with a different colourant.
14. If you want to try more than these 6 test tiles, feel free to go ahead and try other colourants, as you originally made 12 test tiles.
15. **MAKE SURE YOU RECORD YOUR RESULTS AND OXIDES/PERCENTAGES ON THE GLAZE CHART I PROVIDED.**
16. All handouts are posted on the website.