

# PRINTING ON CLAY RESOURCE SHEET

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## SUPPLIES

Items below include a supply # from [www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com). If you enter the number in Blick's search bar, it will bring you to the item.

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Hake Brushes              | 05425-4025 |
| Rubber or Wooden Brayer   | 40104-1004 |
| Graphix Edge Stencil Film | 55911-202  |

## BOOKS

|                                              |                 |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| A Field Guild to Fabric Design by Kim Kight  | ISBN 1607053551 |
| Textile Designs by Susan Meller              | ISBN 0810925087 |
| Wild Flowers of the World by Barbara Everard | ISBN 0896731731 |

## MASON COLOR® CERAMIC STAIN DISTRIBUTORS

|                             |                                                                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bailey Pottery Equipment    | <a href="http://www.baileypottery.com">www.baileypottery.com</a>         |
| Axner - Laguna Clay Company | <a href="http://www.axner.com">www.axner.com</a>                         |
| Sheffield Pottery           | <a href="http://www.sheffield-pottery.com">www.sheffield-pottery.com</a> |

## CERAMIC STAIN SUGGESTIONS

Experiment with adding different percentages of ceramic stains to your clay. The colors you can achieve are completely dependent on the clay body you use.

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1% - 3%   | Pastel Color    |
| 5% - 7%   | Medium Color    |
| 12% - 18% | Saturated Color |

***If you would like to create a palette of repeatable clay colors, you must run tests to develop a system of formulas for your specific clay body.***

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Some artists create their own system using ***volume of ceramic stain*** added to a consistent weight of clay or slip.

**EXAMPLE:**

1 teaspoon of red stain + 1lb of base clay/slip = pink

5 teaspoons of red stain + 1 lb of clay = Bright Red

## **CALCULATED APPROACH TO COLOR CLAY & SLIP**

In my studio, I use the ***weight of ceramic stain as a percentage*** added to my clay body. While this approach requires more effort, the benefit of working this way is that I can easily figure out the exact amount of stain I need to add to ANY amount of clay/slip, large or small.

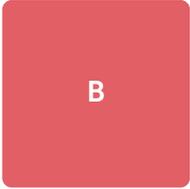
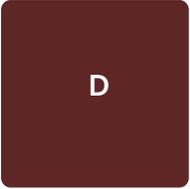
In order to create a system for color percentage of weight, you must be able to determine the weight of DRY material in your base clay/slip. Clay is made of clay powders and water. ***The weight should not include the water content.***

When creating a color using dry materials, that material can be turned into clay or used as liquid colored clay depending on how much water is added to it. Water does not affect color, it simply affects the consistency of the material.

If you are already using a light or white manufactured clay body, you can cut the clay into small chunks, lay it out on boards and leave it out several days to dry out completely. Once your clay is dry, you will be working with dry weight.

It is more work to dry out clay, blend in color and reprocess it into clay, but it is a very accurate way of achieving consistent results. It is also possible to buy clay in powder form. If you can find it, you're already set up to work with dry weight!

Below are examples of a few of my colors I make, with their accompanying formulas. It is simple to mix up small or large batches using basic algebra.

|                        |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dark Red 6021</b>   | 15%                                                                               | 7%                                                                                | 1.5%                                                                               | 15%                                                                                 |
| <b>Best Black 6600</b> |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                    | 2%                                                                                  |

Below are two examples of making two different quantities of bright red clay (A). To achieve this color, I need to add 15% of Dark Red 6021 by weight to my dry base.

### EXAMPLE #1

#### 10 LBS DRY CLAY

15% of 10 pounds  
 $0.15 \times 10 = 1.5 \text{ lbs}$

*I need to add 1.5 lbs of red stain to 10 lbs of dry base material in order to get bright red.*

### EXAMPLE #2

#### 250 LBS DRY CLAY

15% of 250 pounds  
 $0.15 \times 250 = 37.5 \text{ lbs}$

*I need to add 37.5 lbs of red stain to 250 lbs of dry base material in order to get bright red.*

## BLENDING COLORS

I often will blend two colors together. A saturated color with a touch of Best Black 6600 will tone down the intensity. Deep, earthy colors are possible with the small addition (1%-2%) of black or brown.

## BLENDING COLORS CONT.

I approach mixing Mason® ceramic stains like mixing paint. Most of the time, two or more stains can be blended together to achieve more nuanced hues.

Some stains will go gray or brown in a clay/slip. Green can be problematic. I have found that Chartreuse 6236 and Bermuda 6242 work well in slips because they have limited chrome. To get a broad selection of greens in a clay body, Mason® Color Works recommends mixing together Zirconium Vanadium Blue 6315 and Canary 6410.

*Sometimes testing colors can feel like a chore. Just remember that if you take the time to test and record everything, you will have an exact formula forever! Once you lock into that perfect pink, orange or yellow, you will have the recipe to make them over and over again.*

## A SIMPLE STARTING POINT

1. Pick 5 different Mason® Color ceramic stains you want to test
2. Dry out a bag of clay
3. Pulverized your dried clay to quarter(ish) size chunks (wear a mask!)
4. Weigh out 100g of dry chunks/powder into 5 different containers
5. Add 10% (10g) of color to each container
6. Slake the mixture down & blend
7. Apply color in slip form to a base clay test tile
8. Be sure to label the back of your tile!

