



TOOLS:

1. pin tool
2. rubber rib
3. finishing sponge
4. carving tool
5. underglaze
6. brushes
7. slip bottle
8. gouging tool



Prep:

The decorating process starts when the piece is just reaching the consistency of hard cheese. (*The clay should stay a soft leatherhard throughout the process. This is important!*) Prepare your work for surface treatments by trimming, planning attachments, and smoothing. Use your pin tool to make a light sketch as a guide for the decoration. The benefit of doing this is you can change your mind and easily erase the light lines with a soft rib.



Making Lines:

When your guide lines are established start carving. Start with tools that make smaller marks and work up to larger tools. Larger tools tend to be blunt and do not cleanly excavate clay. Clean up the carved line with a smooth finishing sponge and a paint brush. These lines are used to create relief and a boundary for color blocking or textures. Attach the handle after carving.



Color Blocking:

Fill in between the lines with underglaze using a soft paint brush. Apply 3-4 coats for a very solid color block or a single coat if you enjoy brush strokes. Let underglaze to dry between coats. At cone 6 thicker underglaze application can yield a satin sheen.



Applying Slip:

When the underglaze is dry it is ready for the slip design. It's important to find the consistency where the slip will hold its shape and squeeze out of the bottle with ease. The size of the bottle and tip affect the line quality produced.

Important Notes:

- Apply the slip last, as it is easily be smudged by touching.
- When the piece is bone dry apply underglaze to the foot.
- The lines can be highlighted with additional slip inlay after the bisque.
- Before glazing, wax the surface areas where you want only unglaze showing.