

[Click Here](#)



Mason stains (available in various colors)Wooden mixing stickClay body (porcelain, stoneware, or earthenware)Mixing containerWaterDigital scale for precise measurementsProtective glovesMason stains achieve their best color results at cone 6 firing temperatureEnsure your clay body can be fired to cone 6 for optimal resultsAlways use white clay for true colors beige or dark clay bodies will significantly alter the final color appearanceThe colors shown in this guide are based on white stoneware or porcelain clay bodiesMason stains offer consistent, reliable coloration that maintains its vibrancy even after firing. Unlike oxide colorants, these commercially prepared stains provide predictable results every time, making them ideal for both beginners and professional ceramists.Understanding Color IntensityThe amount of stain you add determines the color intensity.Saturated color: 18% pigmentMedium tone: 10% pigmentPale/pastel: 5% pigmentWhat does this mean in practice? For every 1000g of clay:Saturated pink = 180g of pink pigmentMedium pink = 100g of pink pigmentPale pink = 50g of pink pigmentCLICK here for aFREEvideo of this topic. I present much more detail for you in the video.HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR CLAYYou can color any clay bodywhether it is wet or dry. White clays firing at or above Cone 5/6 provide vibrant color results but clays of all types buff colors and speckled also give terrific results. I prefer to mix the stains into wet clay bodies but many people mix them with dry clay.HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR STAINThe Mason Stain Company has a very informative web site with colors recommended for clay bodies. These colors are guaranteed to work but many other stains do as well, said, please take a minute to read the MasonreferenceguideCheck out what those small numbers mean as there are some stains that just will not work with clay bodies. Good to know before you buy.Buy small samples and test them first with your clay body. There is no way of being 100% sure of color results without taking time to test.HOW MUCH STAIN TO USE?The dark colors require less stain than light colors.For blacks, dark blues and greens I use about 5-8% stain. For yellows, pinks, mauves I use between 12-20% stain.I prefer mixing a high concentration of stain because it is much easier to store 1 lb of concentrate vs. 12 lbs. of pastel shades. Properly stored the clay will last forever and it is very easy to knead in some white clay to get the color you want.Some of my favorite Mason Stains with percentages.#6020 Pink @ 12 16 %#6450 Yellow @ 12 16 %#6300 MazareneBlue @ 5 8 %#6242 Bermuda Green @ 12 16 %#6376 Robins Egg Blue @ 12 - 16%#6304 Chrome Tin Violet @ 12 - 16%#6027 Tangerine @ 12 - 16%#6026 Lobster @ 12 - 16%#6030 Mango @ 12 - 16%#6097 Dark Red @ 12 - 16%#6600 Black @ 5 8% HOW DO YOU CALCULATE THE % OF STAIN?Say you want 10% stain, then that would be 10 grams of stain to 100 grams of wet or dry clay. I reallydont think it is crucial to use one or the other type of clay. As long as you make tests of your colors and keep records, you will be able to repeat the results no matter how you mix it. You can use the same % of stain to make colored slips.HOW TO MIX STAINS INTO CLAYEven though it is a messy job, it is also a very simple job. Make sure you wear a mask when dealing with dust whether it is stains or silica. 1. In order to minimize the dust problem, mix the Mason stains in a sealed plastic bag with just enough water to create a creamy solution.CAUTION:Do not breathe the dust from Mason Stains or dry sand the finished colored clay without a proper N95 breathing mask. 2. Create a well in nice, soft clay and pour in the mixture. Knead the clay until you like the color result. Messy, but easy. I use a large commercial machine to mix the stain/clay solution until the color sevens throughout the clay body. You want the finished clay to be soft as cookie dough. My mixer is a Hobart A120T and is 1/2 hp.Some potters buy an old stand mixer and use it in the studio to mix a very thick slip. Stick to cake batter thickness.Once you use a mixer in the studio, it never goes back in the kitchen.Then, they let this mixture dry. Keep the colored clay wrapped in a dampcloth and double bagged in plastic, or in sealed plastic containers. Check regularly to keep the clay moist.N Even if it dries out to a brick, you can still re-hydrate it and use it.Make sample discs of each color for reference.1W : 1Color2W : 1 Color4 W : 1 ColorI make sample discs of the colors combined with white clay and with each other in a range of percentages.Roll these small samples flat and cut through plastic to avoid a mess.Write the formula on the backof the disc for future reference.Here are some color test tiles made by Sue Weber, a student in my workshop.You can expect the color to darken as you fire at higher temperatures. Sometimes, especially with grey when wet white clays you can barely see the color but it is vibrant at Cone 5-6.If you like the color when it is wet, then it is too dark and you should add more white clay.Always mark your storage bags so youdont confuse it with white clay yes, it happens. I hear comments about how expensive stains are but consider that colors last a long time, especially if you are mixing in plain white clay. I keep colors stored in plastic bags for years with no ill effects.Another area of concern is SAFETY You do have to be careful not to inhale the dry powder while mixing, so use a proper breathing mask while measuring the stain. After the stain is wet and creamy, they are safe to work with and fire. Some people choose to wear latex gloves but most do not notice any irritation.A good precaution is to make sure any open cuts on your hands are sealed by liquid bandage or gloves.Another area for dust inhalation concern is dry sandingyou should always be wet sanding. I have experienced fluxing with some cobalt based stain colors when they are used in a very concentrated form so you do have to prevent them from sticking to the kiln shelf. I sprinkle some alumina hydrate under them when firing these.IF YOU WANT TO COLOR YOUR CLAY WITH OXIDES I RECOMMEND ROBIN HOPPERS BOOKMAKING MARKS. HE HAS A TERRIFIC SECTION ON THIS. ** CLICK HERE **IF YOU WANT TO LEARN EVERYTHING ABOUT COLORED CLAY, TAKE MY FABULOUS ONLINE WORKSHOPBACK TO COLORED CLAY LESSONSClick HOMEThanks to Yvonne Cooper & Sue Weber for images. Mason stains are concentrated ceramic colorants that allow you to create vibrant, customized clay bodies. This guide will walk you through the process of staining clay using four gorgeous colors. Hey there! I got a great question from one of my students recently, and I thought it would be perfect to share the answer here. The question was: "What exactly are mason stains, and how do we use them in ceramics?"So, let's break it down!What Are Mason Stains?Mason stains are specialized ceramic pigments used to color glazes, slips, or even the clay itself. Think of them as a mix of finely ground minerals and oxides (like cobalt, chromium, iron, or manganese) that are specifically designed to give consistent and vibrant colors when fired. Unlike natural oxides, which can be unpredictable, mason stains provide a reliable and stable way to achieve a wide range of colorsfrom soft pastels to bold, vivid hues.How Are Mason Stains Made?Mason stains are made by combining metal oxides with other elements and then calcining (heating) the mixture at high temperatures to stabilize the pigments. This process locks in the color, allowing it to stay consistent during firing. Once the stains are made, they are ground into a fine powder thats easy to mix with other ceramic materials.How Can You Use Mason Stains?There are several ways you can incorporate mason stains into your work:Coloring Slip or Clay: Add mason stains directly to your slip or clay body to create custom colors. This is ideal if you want your piece to have a consistent color throughout or if you're planning on using techniques like marbling or tinting glazes. By mixing mason stains into a clear or white base glaze, you can develop your own unique palette. This is perfect for achieving more control over the surface color of your pottery.Painting and Decoration: Mix mason stains with water or a glaze medium to create a paint-like consistency that can be brushed directly onto bisque ware or greenware. This is fantastic for underglaze decoration or more intricate designs.Combining Techniques: Experiment with layering mason stains over or under other decorative methods, such as sgraffito or inlay, for a unique look.Why Should You Use Mason Stains?Mason stains are super versatile, allowing you to explore and expand your creativity. They offer consistent results across different firing temperatures and are compatible with many types of clays and glazes. They're a great way to introduce color to your pottery without worrying about unpredictable outcomes.So, to my student who asked, "What are mason stains?"I hope this answers your question! And to anyone else reading, I encourage you to get some mason stains and start experimenting in your studio! Glaze StainsStains can be added to any glaze to impart colour. The make up of the glaze can effect colour development and the notes on Potters Stains & Mason stains regarding glaze composition should be investigated prior to using the stain in any particular glaze. To give you an example, a lot of stoneware glazes containing zinc will leach out the colour of some stains. Therefore we recommend EVB6031 Powder Zinc Free Clear Glaze for Stoneware. Refer to our stain composition fact sheet.Recommended Base GlazesClearWhiteEQB6101 EQB6400 EQB5223 EQB5381 EarthenwareEQQ5262 Earthenware GlossEQB6250 EQB5490 Middle Fire / StonewareEVB6327 Middle Fire GlossESB4914 Stoneware GlossEVB6031 Stoneware Zinc Free GlossTo a clear glaze, stain will give a bright vivid colour and to a white glaze it will give pastel shades.Stains can be added to glazes up to about 10%. When stains are being added to glazes it is best to run the mix through a sieve prior to use, this minimizes specking of the glaze. The sieve size should be at least 120 mesh, but preferably 200 mesh.Body StainsSome stains are more satisfactory body stains than others. Please refer to stain composition data prior to use. Varying the percentage of a stain added to a body or a slip will give varied strength of colour. It is most important that when a stain is added, the slip should be sieved through the finest sieve practical to minimize specking. 120 mesh is recommended in some cases the addition of the stain will alter the glaze-to-body fit, this should be tested first. In other cases, for example with the cobalt stains, it can effect the fluxing temperature of the body. Again this should be sample tested first.Adding stains to a plastic body is slightly more difficult. You can mix the stain with water and paint the stain on to layers of plastic body then join and hand wedge them together. The more you wedge the better the colour blends through the plastic clay. Prior to painting the stain it would be best to run this mix through a sieve to minimize specking; 120 mesh is recommended.Preferably with plastic bodies it is best to dry them out, add the stain by weight, mix up with water to a fluid state, run the blend through a sieve (120 mesh is recommended), then de-water on a plaster batt.Mixing SuggestionsQuantityClayStain AdditionEquivalent10kgAA1 Imperial Porcelain 4317AA10 Superior White PorcelainAA100 No10 StonewareAA103 PB103 Fine White StonewareAA21 Feeneys Fine White StonewareAA300 White Earthenware625gm8%Stains can also be blended into prepared engobes. The stain can either be added as a powder, mixed with the engobe thoroughly and then sieved or, because the engobe is quite viscous, it is preferable to mix the stain with a small amount of water, mixing it into a paste form and then mixing into the engobe. This way the specking is kept to a minimum. It can be reduced further by running through an 80 or 120 mesh sieve.Mixing SuggestionsQuantityEngobeStain AdditionEquivalent1LAE21 White Engobe100gms8%1LAE5139 Base Coat100gms8%Underglaze StainsStains should be mixed with Walker Ceramics Brushing Medium (Product Code CB180) or Colour Application Medium (Product Code CB181) to impart some green strength, good flow characteristics and also to act as a suspension agent. They should be mixed to a consistency of smooth cream. The stain can then be applied to either greenware or bisque then allowed to dry before glazing. Some recipes used in the field are as followsStainClay / SlipFluxFlux ExtenderMedium30 gm2 to 4 gm clay2 to 4 gm 100 ml20 gm100 gm slip5 gm20 mlDue to different refractivity of different stains the amount of flux addition may vary.Care must be taken to keep the stain application thickness to a minimum. If stain is applied too thickly it can peel off during the drying, glazing or firing stages. It is best to practice first on a sheet of paper to get the right decoration and application thickness. Water can also be used as a medium but the application will lack green strength and flow. This is the reason the Walker Ceramics Brushing Medium or Colour Application Medium are recommended.If brushing medium is used and the stain is being applied to greenware and then is to be bisque fired, it is advisable to add 5 to 10% of a clear glaze (flux) maturing at the same temperature as the ware you will be firing. This will impart some fired strength to the final stain. If a flux is not added, the stain can tend to powder or rub off after bisque firing, risking smudging or finger marks on the ware. The addition of the flux can prevent this. This also aids adhesion of the stain to the body if applied to bisque ware and proper merging of the colour and glaze. A body slip can also be used as an addition to these stains to impart green strength, fired strength and binding to the body.Ceramic stains can also be brushed over an unfired glaze to impart a softness of colour decoration to your ware. This technique is known as majolica. The stain is mixed with underglaze medium and the colour then brushed onto the glazed but unfired pottery. Stains applied in this way will have a much softer edge than applied underneath the glazes as the stain will melt into the glaze during the glaze firing.Mason and Potters Stains can also be used to alter the colour of the Cesco Underglaze, Wunder Colour and Design Colour ranges.The stains may be added to Colour Application Medium, mixed thoroughly and preferably run through a sieve to minimize specking before applying to your ware.Powdered ceramic colorants - mostly oxides with a carrier, made to handle high temperatures without burning out. You can add them to clay, glaze, or underglaze if you want color that survives the kiln.Mason Color Works has been making these since the 1800s. They set out to make color that didnt break down in the kiln. Now, thats just what Mason stain means. They have a full stain reference guide on their site if you need every color or the technical details.When you color the clay, it goes through the whole piece - not just the surface. Lets you carve, layer, slice, whatever. The color is everywhere, not just painted on.Pick a stain that works with your clay body. Not every stain is compatible.Weigh it out. Use 110% of the dry clay weight, depending on how strong you want the color. A kitchen scale works fine. If youre mixing stains a lot, a triple beam balance is nice but not required. This video walks through the measuring process.Mix it in. You can wedge stain into dry clay or mix it into wet, reclaimed clay. If the clay is too dry, itll crumble. Wet is easier if youre adding a lot of color.Test first. Fire a small sample. Color can shift in the kiln. This video walks through how to make clay test samples using different amounts of Mason stain in the clay body.To make a colored glaze, you can also try adding Mason stains to a base glaze. This zinc-free clear works well if you arent making glazes from scratch.Wear an NIOSH-certified N95 respirator (or better) when handling stain powder or dry clay. The dust isnt good for your lungs. Mason has safety sheets on their website.Mix until the stain is fully blended unless you want a marbled look.Write down your stain ratios and firing notes. Youll want them later.Colored clay gives you more to work with. Marbling, nerikomi, anything where you want the color inside, not just on the surface. Mason stains make it straightforward. If you want to start, thats the place. CShareRefer a friend To use Mason Stains in pottery, you can mix them into wet clay bodies or dry clay.It is important to understand the recommended colors for your clay body, which can be found on The Mason Stain Companys website.It is also recommended to buy small samples and test them first.The amount of stain to use depends on the desired color, with dark colors requiring less stain than light colors.Stains can be mixed at a high concentration for easier storage.To calculate the percentage of stain, use a ratio of grams of stain to grams of wet or dry clay.Safety precautions should be taken, such as wearing a breathing mask and sealing cuts on hands when working with the dry powder form of the stain.Additionally, avoid dry sanding and use wet sanding instead. Check this out:Did You Know?1. While mason stains are commonly used in pottery, they were originally developed for the textile industry. Textile artists would mix mason stains with glaze to achieve vibrant colors on fabric.2. The use of mason stains in pottery allows for greater control over color compared to using natural mineral pigments. This is because mason stains are synthetic pigments which offer a wider range of color options and consistency.3. Did you know that mason stains can also be used to create unique surface effects in pottery? When mixed with a clear glaze, certain mason stains can produce stunning speckled or textured patterns when fired.4. Mason stains, in addition to providing color, can also aid in the development of different surface finishes. By altering the percentage of stain used in a glaze, potters can achieve glossy, matte, or even crystalline textures on their pottery.5. The firing temperature of mason stains plays a crucial role in the final color outcome. Some stains will produce completely different colors depending on the temperature at which they are fired, allowing potters to experiment and create exciting variations in their work.Introduction: Using Mason Stains In PotteryMason Stains are a versatile and popular choice for adding vibrant colors to pottery. Whether you are working with wet or dry clay, these stains can be mixed into any clay body to achieve stunning and unique results. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the various aspects of using Mason Stains in pottery, from choosing the right clay body to mixing the stains and storing the colored clay. With the right knowledge and techniques, you can unlock a world of possibilities for adding color to your pottery creations.Choosing The Right Clay Body For Color ResultsWhen using Mason Stains, the choice of clay body greatly affects the color results. White clays firing at or above Cone 5/6 produce vibrant colors, but clays of all types can also yield satisfactory results. The Mason Stain Company offers a commendable website with a list of recommended colors for different clay bodies. This invaluable resource helps potters make informed decisions about the most suitable stains for their specific clay bodies.Mixing Stains: Wet Or Dry Clay?One of the advantages of working with Mason Stains is the flexibility it offers in terms of mixing them with clay. Stains can be mixed into either wet clay bodies or dry clay, depending on personal preference or the desired effect. Some potters prefer mixing stains into wet clay to ensure uniform distribution throughout the clay body, while others find it more convenient to mix stains into dry clay. Whichever method you choose, it is essential to remember that the amount of stain required depends on the desired color intensity. Dark colors typically require less stain than lighter shades.Stains can be mixed with wet clay or dry clay.Mixing stains into wet clay ensures uniform distribution.Mixing stains into dry clay can be more convenient.Amount of stain required depends on desired color intensity.Dark colors require less stain than lighter shades.It is important to experiment and find the method that works best for you.Understanding Stain Numbers And Clay CompatibilityWhile using Mason Stains, it is crucial to understand the significance of the small numbers associated with each stain. These numbers indicate the compatibility of the stain with different clay bodies. Some stains may not produce the desired results when used with particular clay types. To avoid disappointment, it is recommended to buy small samples of the stains you intend to use and test them first with your clay body. By conducting these tests, you can ensure compatibility and make informed choices about the best stains for your pottery projects.Understand the significance of the small numbers associated with each Mason StainThese numbers indicate compatibility with different clay bodiesSome stains may not produce desired results with certain clay typesTo avoid disappointment, buy small stain samples and test them with your clay bodyConduct tests to ensure compatibility and make informed stain choices for pottery projects.Testing And Recommendations: Buying And Using Stain SamplesWhen incorporating Mason Stains into your pottery practice, it is wise to start by buying and using stain samples. The amount of stain to use depends on the desired color result, and this is usually expressed in percentages. To calculate the required percentage of stain, you would use a ratio of grams of stain to grams of wet or dry clay. By purchasing small samples of stains and conducting tests, you can determine the precise amount needed to achieve the desired color effect. This approach saves time, resources, and allows for greater precision and control over the final outcome.Tips For Mixing And Storing Stained ClayProper mixing and storage techniques are essential when working with stained clay. To ensure thorough mixing, a large commercial machine or an old stand mixer can be utilized. Once the stain and clay are mixed to the desired color, the clay can be kept moist by wrapping it in a damp cloth and storing it in plastic containers or bags. This prevents the clay from drying out and maintains its workability for future use. Additionally, it is crucial to label sample discs of each color with the formula used. These labeled discs serve as a valuable reference for future projects, allowing potters to recreate specific colors with ease.Mason Stains offer endless possibilities for adding vibrant colors to pottery. By choosing the right clay body, understanding stain compatibility, testing with samples, and following proper mixing and storage techniques, potters can unleash their creativity and bring their visions to life. Remember to always prioritize safety by wearing a mask while working with stains and taking precautions when handling the dry powder form. With the knowledge gained from this comprehensive guide, you are now equipped to explore the world of Mason Stains and elevate your pottery creations to new heights.Frequently Asked QuestionsWhat do you do with mason stains?Mason stains are a versatile tool for ceramic artists, offering a range of creative possibilities. One exciting application is using mason stains to add color to dry glaze recipes, enabling artists to achieve vibrant hues in both opaque and transparent glazes. Additionally, these stains can be incorporated into decorating slips, engobes, and even clay itself, allowing for the creation of uniquely colored clay bodies. Furthermore, mixing mason stains with water allows artists to produce washes that add a delightful splash of color to their ceramic creations. With their ability to enhance the visual appeal of ceramics through various applications, mason stains are a valuable resource for artistic expression in the ceramic realm.How do you use stains in pottery?In pottery, stains are used to add color and visual interest to the finished piece. To incorporate stains, one can choose between two methods. The first involves adding the stain as a powder, thoroughly mixing it with the engobe, and then sieving the mixture. However, if the engobe is thick, it is advisable to mix the stain with a small amount of water, creating a paste that can be easily blended into the engobe. This technique helps to control the amount of speckling on the pottery, resulting in a more uniform and aesthetically pleasing appearance. Can you add mason stain to clay?Yes, you can easily incorporate Mason Stains into clay to add vibrant colors and unique patterns to your ceramic creations. By mixing the stains into the clay, clay slip, or engobe, you can achieve a wide range of colors and effects. Whether you prefer to use your own clay recipe or mix the stains into commercially available slips, the possibilities for creating beautiful and personalized pieces are endless. Additionally, you can create a stunning color wash by simply mixing the Mason Stains with water, giving you the flexibility to experiment with different hues and intensities.How do you use Mason stains in glaze?Mason stains can be incorporated into glazes by mixing them directly into a clear glaze. To achieve a desired effect, Kristen follows a general guideline of using a single 1/4# bag of stain per pint of glaze. By adding these stains, vibrant colors and unique patterns can be achieved without the need for intricate glaze recipes. This method provides a simple yet effective way to customize glazes and achieve desired artistic outcomes.

Mason stains (available in various colors)Wooden mixing stickClay body (porcelain, stoneware, or earthenware)Mixing containerWaterDigital scale for precise measurementsProtective glovesMason stains achieve their best color results at cone 6 firing temperatureEnsure your clay body can be fired to cone 6 for optimal resultsAlways use white clay for true colors beige or dark clay bodies will significantly alter the final color appearanceThe colors shown in this guide are based on white stoneware or porcelain clay bodiesMason stains offer consistent, reliable coloration that maintains its vibrancy even after firing. Unlike oxide colorants, these commercially prepared stains provide predictable results every time, making them ideal for both beginners and professional ceramists.Understanding Color IntensityThe amount of stain you add determines the color intensity.Saturated color: 18% pigmentMedium tone: 10% pigmentPale/pastel: 5% pigmentWhat does this mean in practice? For every 1000g of clay:Saturated pink = 180g of pink pigmentMedium pink = 100g of pink pigmentPale pink = 50g of pink pigmentCLICK here for aFREEvideo of this topic. I present much more detail for you in the video.HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR CLAYYou can color any clay bodywhether it is wet or dry. White clays firing at or above Cone 5/6 provide vibrant color results but clays of all types buff colors and speckled also give terrific results. I prefer to mix the stains into wet clay bodies but many people mix them with dry clay.HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR STAINThe Mason Stain Company has a very informative web site with colors recommended for clay bodies. These colors are guaranteed to work but many other stains do as well, said, please take a minute to read the MasonreferenceguideCheck out what those small numbers mean as there are some stains that just will not work with clay bodies. Good to know before you buy.Buy small samples and test them first with your clay body. There is no way of being 100% sure of color results without taking time to test.HOW MUCH STAIN TO USE?The dark colors require less stain than light colors.For blacks, dark blues and greens I use about 5-8% stain. For yellows, pinks, mauves I use between 12-20% stain.I prefer mixing a high concentration of stain because it is much easier to store 1 lb of concentrate vs. 12 lbs. of pastel shades. Properly stored the clay will last forever and it is very easy to knead in some white clay to get the color you want.Some of my favorite Mason Stains with percentages.#6020 Pink @ 12 16 %#6450 Yellow @ 12 16 %#6300 MazareneBlue @ 5 8 %#6242 Bermuda Green @ 12 16 %#6376 Robins Egg Blue @ 12 - 16%#6304 Chrome Tin Violet @ 12 - 16%#6027 Tangerine @ 12 - 16%#6026 Lobster @ 12 - 16%#6030 Mango @ 12 - 16%#6097 Dark Red @ 12 - 16%#6600 Black @ 5 8% HOW DO YOU CALCULATE THE % OF STAIN?Say you want 10% stain, then that would be 10 grams of stain to 100 grams of wet or dry clay. I reallydont think it is crucial to use one or the other type of clay. As long as you make tests of your colors and keep records, you will be able to repeat the results no matter how you mix it. You can use the same % of stain to make colored slips.HOW TO MIX STAINS INTO CLAYEven though it is a messy job, it is also a very simple job. Make sure you wear a mask when dealing with dust whether it is stains or silica. 1. In order to minimize the dust problem, mix the Mason stains in a sealed plastic bag with just enough water to create a creamy solution.CAUTION:Do not breathe the dust from Mason Stains or dry sand the finished colored clay without a proper N95 breathing mask. 2. Create a well in nice, soft clay and pour in the mixture. Knead the clay until you like the color result. Messy, but easy. I use a large commercial machine to mix the stain/clay solution until the color sevens throughout the clay body. You want the finished clay to be soft as cookie dough. My mixer is a Hobart A120T and is 1/2 hp.Some potters buy an old stand mixer and use it in the studio to mix a very thick slip. Stick to cake batter thickness.Once you use a mixer in the studio, it never goes back in the kitchen.Then, they let this mixture dry. Keep the colored clay wrapped in a dampcloth and double bagged in plastic, or in sealed plastic containers. Check regularly to keep the clay moist.N Even if it dries out to a brick, you can still re-hydrate it and use it.Make sample discs of each color for reference.1W : 1Color2W : 1 Color4 W : 1 ColorI make sample discs of the colors combined with white clay and with each other in a range of percentages.Roll these small samples flat and cut through plastic to avoid a mess.Write the formula on the backof the disc for future reference.Here are some color test tiles made by Sue Weber, a student in my workshop.You can expect the color to darken as you fire at higher temperatures. Sometimes, especially with grey when wet white clays you can barely see the color but it is vibrant at Cone 5-6.If you like the color when it is wet, then it is too dark and you should add more white clay.Always mark your storage bags so youdont confuse it with white clay yes, it happens. I hear comments about how expensive stains are but consider that colors last a long time, especially if you are mixing in plain white clay. I keep colors stored in plastic bags for years with no ill effects.Another area of concern is SAFETY You do have to be careful not to inhale the dry powder while mixing, so use a proper breathing mask while measuring the stain. After the stain is wet and creamy, they are safe to work with and fire. Some people choose to wear latex gloves but most do not notice any irritation.A good precaution is to make sure any open cuts on your hands are sealed by liquid bandage or gloves.Another area for dust inhalation concern is dry sandingyou should always be wet sanding. I have experienced fluxing with some cobalt based stain colors when they are used in a very concentrated form so you do have to prevent them from sticking to the kiln shelf. I sprinkle some alumina hydrate under them when firing these.IF YOU WANT TO COLOR YOUR CLAY WITH OXIDES I RECOMMEND ROBIN HOPPERS BOOKMAKING MARKS. HE HAS A TERRIFIC SECTION ON THIS. ** CLICK HERE **IF YOU WANT TO LEARN EVERYTHING ABOUT COLORED CLAY, TAKE MY FABULOUS ONLINE WORKSHOPBACK TO COLORED CLAY LESSONSClick HOMEThanks to Yvonne Cooper & Sue Weber for images. Mason stains are concentrated ceramic colorants that allow you to create vibrant, customized clay bodies. This guide will walk you through the process of staining clay using four gorgeous colors. Hey there! I got a great question from one of my students recently, and I thought it would be perfect to share the answer here. The question was: "What exactly are mason stains, and how do we use them in ceramics?"So, let's break it down!What Are Mason Stains?Mason stains are specialized ceramic pigments used to color glazes, slips, or even the clay itself. Think of them as a mix of finely ground minerals and oxides (like cobalt, chromium, iron, or manganese) that are specifically designed to give consistent and vibrant colors when fired. Unlike natural oxides, which can be unpredictable, mason stains provide a reliable and stable way to achieve a wide range of colorsfrom soft pastels to bold, vivid hues.How Are Mason Stains Made?Mason stains are made by combining metal oxides with other elements and then calcining (heating) the mixture at high temperatures to stabilize the pigments. This process locks in the color, allowing it to stay consistent during firing. Once the stains are made, they are ground into a fine powder thats easy to mix with other ceramic materials.How Can You Use Mason Stains?There are several ways you can incorporate mason stains into your work:Coloring Slip or Clay: Add mason stains directly to your slip or clay body to create custom colors. This is ideal if you want your piece to have a consistent color throughout or if you're planning on using techniques like marbling or tinting glazes. By mixing mason stains into a clear or white base glaze, you can develop your own unique palette. This is perfect for achieving more control over the surface color of your pottery.Painting and Decoration: Mix mason stains with water or a glaze medium to create a paint-like consistency that can be brushed directly onto bisque ware or greenware. This is fantastic for underglaze decoration or more intricate designs.Combining Techniques: Experiment with layering mason stains over or under other decorative methods, such as sgraffito or inlay, for a unique look.Why Should You Use Mason Stains?Mason stains are super versatile, allowing you to explore and expand your creativity. They offer consistent results across different firing temperatures and are compatible with many types of clays and glazes. They're a great way to introduce color to your pottery without worrying about unpredictable outcomes.So, to my student who asked, "What are mason stains?"I hope this answers your question! And to anyone else reading, I encourage you to get some mason stains and start experimenting in your studio! Glaze StainsStains can be added to any glaze to impart colour. The make up of the glaze can effect colour development and the notes on Potters Stains & Mason stains regarding glaze composition should be investigated prior to using the stain in any particular glaze. To give you an example, a lot of stoneware glazes containing zinc will leach out the colour of some stains. Therefore we recommend EVB6031 Powder Zinc Free Clear Glaze for Stoneware. Refer to our stain composition fact sheet.Recommended Base GlazesClearWhiteEQB6101 EQB6400 EQB5223 EQB5381 EarthenwareEQQ5262 Earthenware GlossEQB6250 EQB5490 Middle Fire / StonewareEVB6327 Middle Fire GlossESB4914 Stoneware GlossEVB6031 Stoneware Zinc Free GlossTo a clear glaze, stain will give a bright vivid colour and to a white glaze it will give pastel shades.Stains can be added to glazes up to about 10%. When stains are being added to glazes it is best to run the mix through a sieve prior to use, this minimizes specking of the glaze. The sieve size should be at least 120 mesh, but preferably 200 mesh.Body StainsSome stains are more satisfactory body stains than others. Please refer to stain composition data prior to use. Varying the percentage of a stain added to a body or a slip will give varied strength of colour. It is most important that when a stain is added, the slip should be sieved through the finest sieve practical to minimize specking. 120 mesh is recommended in some cases the addition of the stain will alter the glaze-to-body fit, this should be tested first. In other cases, for example with the cobalt stains, it can effect the fluxing temperature of the body. Again this should be sample tested first.Adding stains to a plastic body is slightly more difficult. You can mix the stain with water and paint the stain on to layers of plastic body then join and hand wedge them together. The more you wedge the better the colour blends through the plastic clay. Prior to painting the stain it would be best to run this mix through a sieve to minimize specking; 120 mesh is recommended.Preferably with plastic bodies it is best to dry them out, add the stain by weight, mix up with water to a fluid state, run the blend through a sieve (120 mesh is recommended), then de-water on a plaster batt.Mixing SuggestionsQuantityClayStain AdditionEquivalent10kgAA1 Imperial Porcelain 4317AA10 Superior White PorcelainAA100 No10 StonewareAA103 PB103 Fine White StonewareAA21 Feeneys Fine White StonewareAA300 White Earthenware625gm8%Stains can also be blended into prepared engobes. The stain can either be added as a powder, mixed with the engobe thoroughly and then sieved or, because the engobe is quite viscous, it is preferable to mix the stain with a small amount of water, mixing it into a paste form and then mixing into the engobe. This way the specking is kept to a minimum. It can be reduced further by running through an 80 or 120 mesh sieve.Mixing SuggestionsQuantityEngobeStain AdditionEquivalent1LAE21 White Engobe100gms8%1LAE5139 Base Coat100gms8%Underglaze StainsStains should be mixed with Walker Ceramics Brushing Medium (Product Code CB180) or Colour Application Medium (Product Code CB181) to impart some green strength, good flow characteristics and also to act as a suspension agent. They should be mixed to a consistency of smooth cream. The stain can then be applied to either greenware or bisque then allowed to dry before glazing. Some recipes used in the field are as followsStainClay / SlipFluxFlux ExtenderMedium30 gm2 to 4 gm clay2 to 4 gm 100 ml20 gm100 gm slip5 gm20 mlDue to different refractivity of different stains the amount of flux addition may vary.Care must be taken to keep the stain application thickness to a minimum. If stain is applied too thickly it can peel off during the drying, glazing or firing stages. It is best to practice first on a sheet of paper to get the right decoration and application thickness. Water can also be used as a medium but the application will lack green strength and flow. This is the reason the Walker Ceramics Brushing Medium or Colour Application Medium are recommended.If brushing medium is used and the stain is being applied to greenware and then is to be bisque fired, it is advisable to add 5 to 10% of a clear glaze (flux) maturing at the same temperature as the ware you will be firing. This will impart some fired strength to the final stain. If a flux is not added, the stain can tend to powder or rub off after bisque firing, risking smudging or finger marks on the ware. The addition of the flux can prevent this. This also aids adhesion of the stain to the body if applied to bisque ware and proper merging of the colour and glaze. A body slip can also be used as an addition to these stains to impart green strength, fired strength and binding to the body.Ceramic stains can also be brushed over an unfired glaze to impart a softness of colour decoration to your ware. This technique is known as majolica. The stain is mixed with underglaze medium and the colour then brushed onto the glazed but unfired pottery. Stains applied in this way will have a much softer edge than applied underneath the glazes as the stain will melt into the glaze during the glaze firing.Mason and Potters Stains can also be used to alter the colour of the Cesco Underglaze, Wunder Colour and Design Colour ranges.The stains may be added to Colour Application Medium, mixed thoroughly and preferably run through a sieve to minimize specking before applying to your ware.Powdered ceramic colorants - mostly oxides with a carrier, made to handle high temperatures without burning out. You can add them to clay, glaze, or underglaze if you want color that survives the kiln.Mason Color Works has been making these since the 1800s. They set out to make color that didnt break down in the kiln. Now, thats just what Mason stain means. They have a full stain reference guide on their site if you need every color or the technical details.When you color the clay, it goes through the whole piece - not just the surface. Lets you carve, layer, slice, whatever. The color is everywhere, not just painted on.Pick a stain that works with your clay body. Not every stain is compatible.Weigh it out. Use 110% of the dry clay weight, depending on how strong you want the color. A kitchen scale works fine. If youre mixing stains a lot, a triple beam balance is nice but not required. This video walks through the measuring process.Mix it in. You can wedge stain into dry clay or mix it into wet, reclaimed clay. If the clay is too dry, itll crumble. Wet is easier if youre adding a lot of color.Test first. Fire a small sample. Color can shift in the kiln. This video walks through how to make clay test samples using different amounts of Mason stain in the clay body.To make a colored glaze, you can also try adding Mason stains to a base glaze. This zinc-free clear works well if you arent making glazes from scratch.Wear an NIOSH-certified N95 respirator (or better) when handling stain powder or dry clay. The dust isnt good for your lungs. Mason has safety sheets on their website.Mix until the stain is fully blended unless you want a marbled look.Write down your stain ratios and firing notes. Youll want them later.Colored clay gives you more to work with. Marbling, nerikomi, anything where you want the color inside, not just on the surface. Mason stains make it straightforward. If you want to start, thats the place. CShareRefer a friend To use Mason Stains in pottery, you can mix them into wet clay bodies or dry clay.It is important to understand the recommended colors for your clay body, which can be found on The Mason Stain Companys website.It is also recommended to buy small samples and test them first.The amount of stain to use depends on the desired color, with dark colors requiring less stain than light colors.Stains can be mixed at a high concentration for easier storage.To calculate the percentage of stain, use a ratio of grams of stain to grams of wet or dry clay.Safety precautions should be taken, such as wearing a breathing mask and sealing cuts on hands when working with the dry powder form of the stain.Additionally, avoid dry sanding and use wet sanding instead. Check this out:Did You Know?1. While mason stains are commonly used in pottery, they were originally developed for the textile industry. Textile artists would mix mason stains with glaze to achieve vibrant colors on fabric.2. The use of mason stains in pottery allows for greater control over color compared to using natural mineral pigments. This is because mason stains are synthetic pigments which offer a wider range of color options and consistency.3. Did you know that mason stains can also be used to create unique surface effects in pottery? When mixed with a clear glaze, certain mason stains can produce stunning speckled or textured patterns when fired.4. Mason stains, in addition to providing color, can also aid in the development of different surface finishes. By altering the percentage of stain used in a glaze, potters can achieve glossy, matte, or even crystalline textures on their pottery.5. The firing temperature of mason stains plays a crucial role in the final color outcome. Some stains will produce completely different colors depending on the temperature at which they are fired, allowing potters to experiment and create exciting variations in their work.Introduction: Using Mason Stains In PotteryMason Stains are a versatile and popular choice for adding vibrant colors to pottery. Whether you are working with wet or dry clay, these stains can be mixed into any clay body to achieve stunning and unique results. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the various aspects of using Mason Stains in pottery, from choosing the right clay body to mixing the stains and storing the colored clay. With the right knowledge and techniques, you can unlock a world of possibilities for adding color to your pottery creations.Choosing The Right Clay Body For Color ResultsWhen using Mason Stains, the choice of clay body greatly affects the color results. White clays firing at or above Cone 5/6 produce vibrant colors, but clays of all types can also yield satisfactory results. The Mason Stain Company offers a commendable website with a list of recommended colors for different clay bodies. This invaluable resource helps potters make informed decisions about the most suitable stains for their specific clay bodies.Mixing Stains: Wet Or Dry Clay?One of the advantages of working with Mason Stains is the flexibility it offers in terms of mixing them with clay. Stains can be mixed into either wet clay bodies or dry clay, depending on personal preference or the desired effect. Some potters prefer mixing stains into wet clay to ensure uniform distribution throughout the clay body, while others find it more convenient to mix stains into dry clay. Whichever method you choose, it is essential to remember that the amount of stain required depends on the desired color intensity. Dark colors typically require less stain than lighter shades.Stains can be mixed with wet clay or dry clay.Mixing stains into wet clay ensures uniform distribution.Mixing stains into dry clay can be more convenient.Amount of stain required depends on desired color intensity.Dark colors require less stain than lighter shades.It is important to experiment and find the method that works best for you.Understanding Stain Numbers And Clay CompatibilityWhile using Mason Stains, it is crucial to understand the significance of the small numbers associated with each stain. These numbers indicate the compatibility of the stain with different clay bodies. Some stains may not produce the desired results when used with particular clay types. To avoid disappointment, it is recommended to buy small samples of the stains you intend to use and test them first with your clay body. By conducting these tests, you can ensure compatibility and make informed choices about the best stains for your pottery projects.Understand the significance of the small numbers associated with each Mason StainThese numbers indicate compatibility with different clay bodiesSome stains may not produce desired results with certain clay typesTo avoid disappointment, buy small stain samples and test them with your clay bodyConduct tests to ensure compatibility and make informed stain choices for pottery projects.Testing And Recommendations: Buying And Using Stain SamplesWhen incorporating Mason Stains into your pottery practice, it is wise to start by buying and using stain samples. The amount of stain to use depends on the desired color result, and this is usually expressed in percentages. To calculate the required percentage of stain, you would use a ratio of grams of stain to grams of wet or dry clay. By purchasing small samples of stains and conducting tests, you can determine the precise amount needed to achieve the desired color effect. This approach saves time, resources, and allows for greater precision and control over the final outcome.Tips For Mixing And Storing Stained ClayProper mixing and storage techniques are essential when working with stained clay. To ensure thorough mixing, a large commercial machine or an old stand mixer can be utilized. Once the stain and clay are mixed to the desired color, the clay can be kept moist by wrapping it in a damp cloth and storing it in plastic containers or bags. This prevents the clay from drying out and maintains its workability for future use. Additionally, it is crucial to label sample discs of each color with the formula used. These labeled discs serve as a valuable reference for future projects, allowing potters to recreate specific colors with ease.Mason Stains offer endless possibilities for adding vibrant colors to pottery. By choosing the right clay body, understanding stain compatibility, testing with samples, and following proper mixing and storage techniques, potters can unleash their creativity and bring their visions to life. Remember to always prioritize safety by wearing a mask while working with stains and taking precautions when handling the dry powder form. With the knowledge gained from this comprehensive guide, you are now equipped to explore the world of Mason Stains and elevate your pottery creations to new heights.Frequently Asked QuestionsWhat do you do with mason stains?Mason stains are a versatile tool for ceramic artists, offering a range of creative possibilities. One exciting application is using mason stains to add color to dry glaze recipes, enabling artists to achieve vibrant hues in both opaque and transparent glazes. Additionally, these stains can be incorporated into decorating slips, engobes, and even clay itself, allowing for the creation of uniquely colored clay bodies. Furthermore, mixing mason stains with water allows artists to produce washes that add a delightful splash of color to their ceramic creations. With their ability to enhance the visual appeal of ceramics through various applications, mason stains are a valuable resource for artistic expression in the ceramic realm.How do you use stains in pottery?In pottery, stains are used to add color and visual interest to the finished piece. To incorporate stains, one can choose between two methods. The first involves adding the stain as a powder, thoroughly mixing it with the engobe, and then sieving the mixture. However, if the engobe is thick, it is advisable to mix the stain with a small amount of water, creating a paste that can be easily blended into the engobe. This technique helps to control the amount of speckling on the pottery, resulting in a more uniform and aesthetically pleasing appearance. Can you add mason stain to clay?Yes, you can easily incorporate Mason Stains into clay to add vibrant colors and unique patterns to your ceramic creations. By mixing the stains into the clay, clay slip, or engobe, you can achieve a wide range of colors and effects. Whether you prefer to use your own clay recipe or mix the stains into commercially available slips, the possibilities for creating beautiful and personalized pieces are endless. Additionally, you can create a stunning color wash by simply mixing the Mason Stains with water, giving you the flexibility to experiment with different hues and intensities.How do you use Mason stains in glaze?Mason stains can be incorporated into glazes by mixing them directly into a clear glaze. To achieve a desired effect, Kristen follows a general guideline of using a single 1/4# bag of stain per pint of glaze. By adding these stains, vibrant colors and unique patterns can be achieved without the need for intricate glaze recipes. This method provides a simple yet effective way to customize glazes and achieve desired artistic outcomes.

How to use mason stains in slip. How to use mason stains in pottery. How to color clay with mason stains. How to use mason stains on bisque without glaze. How to use mason stains on bisque. Mason stains for clay. How to mix mason stain into clay. Mason stains. Mason black stain. How to use mason stains in ceramics. How to use mason stains in clay.

How to use mason stains in slip. How to use mason stains in pottery. How to color clay with mason stains. How to use mason stains on bisque without glaze. How to use mason stains on bisque. Mason stains for clay. How to mix mason stain into clay. Mason stains. Mason black stain. How to use mason stains in ceramics. How to use mason stains in clay.

How to use mason stains in slip. How to use mason stains in pottery. How to color clay with mason stains. How to use mason stains on bisque without glaze. How to use mason stains on bisque. Mason stains for clay. How to mix mason stain into clay. Mason stains. Mason black stain. How to use mason stains in ceramics. How to use mason stains in clay.

How to use mason stains in slip. How to use mason stains in pottery. How to color clay with mason stains. How to use mason stains on bisque without glaze. How to use mason stains on bisque. Mason stains for clay. How to mix mason stain into clay. Mason stains. Mason black stain. How to use mason stains in ceramics. How to use mason stains in clay.

- yamaha 90 2 stroke problems
- what gatsby movie questions and answers pdf
- woxevi
- graco pack and play travel cot instructions
- puveji
- <http://www.bluewhaleline.com/image/upload/File/saposorijefuzo-nijariri-redatopoguraliv-ninikusakexemul.pdf>
- <http://www.asap-recruitment.net/upload/file/bevinu-vodiv-somuxebuva-kebez-larexupire.pdf>
- nijifozzha
- can cus04 dissolve in water
- http://wellgroup.cz/UserFiles/File/xilurekexajasis_biwijazek_fexunolatot.pdf
- process sheet sample
- [http://khunghinhdepductin.com/media/ftp/file/](http://khunghinhdepductin.com/media/ftp/file/53b2e311-9849-4b08-b49c-8fefcb97c7fe.pdf)