



# Latest and Greatest

November–December 2010

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**H**ere at SMC, we're busy getting ready for our first holiday season. In this economy, it's wonderful for all clay artists that we have the skill, talent and ideas to create handmade holiday gifts—either to sell or for our own loved ones. Don't forget—the SMC glaze line boasts dozens of warm autumn colors, sparkly reds, rich greens, and icy jewel tones perfect for all functional or decorative work. Whether you're creating dishes, sculptures, ornaments or something else—we can help you find the perfect clay and glaze for any project.

## FEATURED GLAZES...

Our holiday gift to you! Instead of just one Featured Glaze in this issue, we are celebrating with *three* discounted glaze colors. All three cone 6 glazes are food-safe (when applied properly), and ideal for both functional and decorative work.

**Tiger's Eye (#471)** creates a lovely warm finish for any piece. With a lightly-flecked brown tone, **Tiger's Eye** will easily highlight surface texture on your work. **Tiger's Eye** layers nicely with many SMC glaze colors, including our **Praline Marble**, **Emerald** and **Mediterranean Sea Salt**.

**Blue Jeans (#501)** is a bright, waterfall blue gloss that is striking on almost every clay body. Breaking to a lighter blue where thin, Blue Jeans' opaque finish does not typically cause movement on a pot's surface, even when used with other glazes. It layers especially well with **Leopard Agate**, **Egg Cream** and **Rose Quartz**.



## SMC Clay Tip:

We've all experienced the anticipation of waiting for a kiln to cool. It's so tempting to open the lid and see what wonders are inside. A peek won't hurt, right? Wrong! There are so many variables that must come into play to produce beautiful and sturdy pieces. Drying, bisque-firing, glazing—so much is out of our control. But a few simple ideas can help our pieces make it through their last delicate phase of firing-cooling.

Our guidelines:

- ◆ It's simple—the kiln should be within 20 degrees of room temperature before you open it. If you need to wear gloves to handle your pieces, or you hear ping-pong and crackling in your pots, it's too hot. Unloading a kiln when it is too warm often causes pock marks, or little "pinholes" in your glaze. It can also cause the clay to crack and split (this can occur with bisqueware as well).
- ◆ Noticing tiny bubbles in your glaze? If you **do not have a kiln vent**, we recommend firing your kiln with the top peephole plug OUT and the other(s) IN. Put in the top plug after the kiln shuts off and begins to cool. Be sure the plug is in before the kiln reaches 600 degrees, as this slows down your cooling. It is essential that glazes do not crystallize too quickly as they cool, so the glaze can release any bubbles and the surface can be smooth. The above guideline with the plugs can also be used when firing a bisque load.



For those who love earthy green tones, **Olive Serpentine (#474)** is an ideal glaze. Deep and rich, **Olive Serpentine** works wonderfully as a base color when used alongside or under other SMC glazes. A dark and opaque color, **Olive Serpentine** holds its tone—even on the darker clays. This glaze is popularly used with **Ginger Mist**, **Vanilla Bean** and **Topaz**.

Through December 31, shop at SMC and mention coupon code **"SMC11103"** to receive **20% off** the purchase prices of any pints or 1-gallon buckets of **Tiger's Eye**, **Blue Jeans** or **Olive Serpentine** glaze. This offer is good for both walk-in and shipped orders (but may not be combined with any other specials, and is good on in-stock merchandise only).

## SMC Glazing Tip:

Have you ever tried to paint neat, straight lines or interesting glaze layers onto your piece? Find that your hand is shaky, the design bleeds/runs into the other glazes, or the glaze application comes out way too thick? Ugh. Have fun with this little trick:



1. Apply (dip or brush) your base color. This glaze should be applied at the thickness of a regular glaze application. Allow adequate drying time, the glaze layer should be completely dry before proceeding to step #2.
2. Take a narrow or trimming/carving tool and carve your design/stripes through the dry coats of glaze. Once you have carved out your entire design, lightly brush the removed glaze with a dry, soft brush (we recommend doing this step outdoors or in a well-ventilated area).
3. Using a syringe or slip-trailer, inlay a second glaze into the carved area. Allow it to dry flat, and this will preserve your design. There are other ways to add your second glaze and achieve different looks. You can brush a glaze over the entire piece, letting it layer the first glaze and settle into the carving. Wax resist inlaid into the design will repel the glaze and expose the clay body (this step is not recommended on a food surface). Your finish can be dramatic or subtle, depending on the level of contrast between the two glazes.

*Note: You will still see some movement in your glazes, depending on glaze combinations, thickness and location (designs on vertical slopes will move more than on a flat slab). This method will not provide the definition of underglaze painting, and is ideal for more subtle designs.*

## GLAZE ORDERING SPECIAL!

Place any internet or phone order for SMC glazes and receive a great discount on your entire glaze order!

**Spend \$75 or more: 10% off**

**Spend \$250 or more: 15% off**

**Spend \$350-\$500: 20% off**

This offer applies to any size batch of SMC glaze, as well as pints and gallons of SMC decorating slips and wax resist. The special cannot be combined with any other coupons or discounts (if Featured Glazes are ordered, the greater discount will prevail). The discount does not apply to any clays included on your order. (offer expires 12/30/10)

## DON'T FORGET!

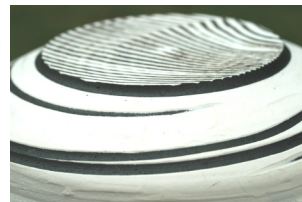
We are **closing early** on **Friday, November 5**, and SMC will be **closed** for business on **Saturday, November 6**. We will be at the Western North Carolina Pottery Festival in Dillsboro, NC. SMC will be happy to help you when we reopen on Tuesday, November 9 (While we are closed, you can email us and we will help you in any way that we can).

We will also be **closed** for business on **Tuesday, November 23** and **Wednesday, November 24**. SMC will reopen on **Friday, November 26**.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

*New at  
SMC...*

A smooth, beautiful and ready-to-use **Grolleg Porcelain** decorating slip! Create unique, interesting contrasts and textures on a variety of clays with ease. Ideal for oxidation, reduction, raku, salt or wood firing (can fire up to cone 10).



**Pink Grapefruit Juice** glaze! A bright and sheer cone 6 color, **Pink Grapefruit Juice (#429)** is a unique and refreshing finish for your work. This glaze breaks nicely over surface texture and can be used to easily highlight imprinted and raised designs. **Pink Grapefruit Juice** is food-safe when used properly.



**Still in the works:** SMC underglazes and a great new stoneware (currently being tested!). *Stay tuned...*

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