

I don't know about you, but it seems like we blinked and the lazy days of summer had slipped right past—giving way to the chaos of going back to school! And you know what that means—record clay production levels at SMC!

We're in high gear cranking out tons and tons of your favorite SMC clay bodies.

Along with heavy production comes lots of Hybrid Clay, and SMC customers have really been enjoying its super-economical pricing. In addition, SMC currently has three exciting new clay bodies in testing phase that should be released in the coming weeks. Fall is a serious R & D season at SMC—we've got several more unique new glaze colors in the works and will be adding more amazing decorating slips shortly. We're just as anxious to launch them as you are to use them, but patience (and lots of testing!) is a virtue. Now, if only the end of summer would take this crazy heat with it...

SMC's First Annual Photo Contest!

Show us your pots! We want to see your favorite piece created out of SMC products. The winning piece will be featured in our Jan/Feb 2012 newsletter, and the winner will receive a \$25 SMC Gift Certificate and bragging rights! Email your jpeg images to info@stonemountainclay.com before **December 1, 2011** to enter (submissions will also be accepted via USPS, photos will not be returned). *Rules of entry:*

- ◆ Piece must be created from **only** SMC clays, slips and glazes
- ◆ Full name, city/state, clay and glaze combination, application and firing style must be included with each submission
- ◆ You may enter as many pots as you'd like, but each must be sent as a separate submission with the information listed above.

NEW AT SMC...

Relic Wash: Achieve an aged, antique-style look!

Ready-to-go right out of the jar, Relic Wash can be applied to bisqueware (with a brush or sponge) and sponged back to accent surface detail. Ideal when used over carvings, impressions and other textures. Relic Wash can also be applied to leatherhard or greenware pieces, and then carved through (just like a decorating slip!).

Unlike some other black washes, Relic

Wash does not contain manganese. It can be used on raku, lowfire and highfire works. But that's not all—SMC's Relic Wash is also a great tool for signing the bottom of your work—it never sticks to your kiln shelves!



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FEATURED GLAZE...

#403 Blue Sage



A beautiful, opaque Robin's-egg blue, #403 Blue Sage is a great glaze to use alone or alongside many other SMC glazes.

Blue Sage combines beautifully with many SMC glazes, in particular: 443 Topaz, 461 Rose Quartz, 490 Mardi Gras, 408 Egg Cream and 412 Mint Chocolate Chip. Blue Sage features a subtle brown flecking throughout the glaze, which will intensify when used over speckled and darker clay bodies.



Lovely and reliable on every SMC Clay color, Blue Sage will warm slightly on red clays and is fabulous on our black stonewares. Now through the end of October, save **20% off the purchase of any pints or 1-gallon buckets of #403 Blue Sage.** Simply mention "SMC9403."

LAYERING GLAZES

It's not as scary as you think!

Layering glazes is a fun, but frightening, technique for many potters. While it can often be impossible to predict exactly how two glazes will work together, there are some tips and tricks that you can use to take some of the fear out of layering.

Note: When combining different glaze brands, occasionally you will see the top glaze start to immediately curl and peel off the bottom glaze as you attempt to apply it. Typically this indicates that the two glazes will not be compatible for firing and creating a smooth, unblemished surface. While SMC glazes work very well with many other glaze brands, we feel even more strongly about testing combinations on small pieces when blending manufacturers.

Some tips to keep in mind:

- ◆ Glazes aren't like paints. Because many contain chemically-based colorants, some glazes will produce surprising color change when combined with other glazes. (Red and blue do not always make purple!).
- ◆ Even if you're using the same glazes on a piece, the order in which you apply them will effect the outcome. Rose Quartz is great both over and under 417 Polar Frost, but the fired results, while both lovely, are completely different. You will also get a different result if the glazes are actually mixed together.



The tiles pictured above are the same three glazes, layered in different orders (on the same clay body). They all contain 405 Daiquiri Freeze, 414 Ginger Mist and 418 Liquid Smoke. The base coat of each is 2 brushed coats of (L-R) 418, 414 and 405. See what a huge difference the application order makes?

- ◆ Glaze combination results will vary based on whether your piece is vertical or flat, textured or smooth. If you're looking at a sample that you want to duplicate-notice the shape and surface of the piece. Be sure to test combinations across multiple surfaces.
- ◆ Sheer glazes will typically move, blend and modify more than opaque glazes. While this is NOT always the case, often the more translucent glazes will blend together with ease. SMC has several sheer options for modifiers: 490 Mardi Gras, 414 Ginger Mist, 418 Liquid Smoke, 431 Vanilla Icing, and 443 Topaz (sheer only on certain clays, but always modifies other glazes very well).

*Don't forget
our new store hours:*

Mon: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tues-Fri: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, September 5: SMC will be closed for Labor Day.

Friday & Saturday, November 4 & 5: SMC will be closed for the Western North Carolina Pottery Festival in Dillsboro, NC.

- ◆ Opaque, non-breaking glazes will typically layer in a more predictable fashion. SMC glazes such as 408 Egg Cream, 413 Vanilla Bean, 451 White Russian, 406 Frosted Black Licorice, and 416 Milk Chocolate. 461 Rose Quartz, however, does not follow this rule. It is opaque and does not break on its own, but will cause drastic modification.

- ◆ Glaze combination results will also vary depending on your clay body. Again, if you see a sample you like and wish to try to duplicate the look-note the clay body.



Both tiles were glazed with 2 coats 405 Daiquiri Freeze, and drizzled with a swirl of 404 Celerydon. The left tile is 333 Black Raven, the right tile is 262 Grey Speck.

- ◆ That's why, when you look at samples in the SMC showroom, on our Facebook page or on the Dynamic Duos tab in the website, you will notice that we always note the clay body.
- ◆ Your overall glaze thickness should be approximately the thickness of a matchbook cover. This is whether you use one glaze, or 4. Keep this in mind when applying your glazes-if the jar says 2-3 coats, that is if you're only using the one glaze. If you put 2-3 coats of each color on your piece, your glaze will be too thick and will crawl or run. Plus, when layering glazes, remember that varying the thickness of each glaze may impact the way that they combine and work together.
- ◆ Allow adequate drying time between glaze coats and glaze layers. This will ensure much better glaze adhesion, and prevent contamination while increasing the predictability of your results.