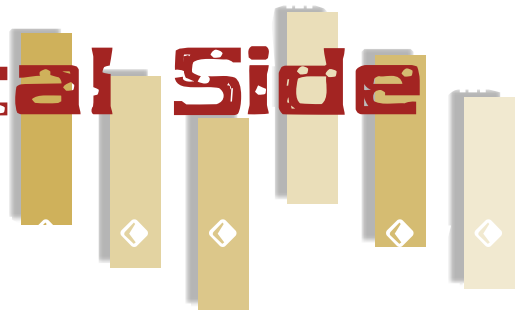


# The Technical Side

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



### Confused about glaze

**Q** I am really confused about glazing stoneware. I live in the “boonies” in Montana and there is no one around that I can ask about this. Is it okay to bisque fire to cone 6 and then glaze and fire to cone 04, or do I have to bisque to 04 and then only use high fire glaze? I would like to try some of the crystal glazes, but they say to fire them at 04. Everything I do is trial and error and I would like to have a little guidance on this. Thanks. Diane.

**A** Dear Diane, First, before applying and high firing glazes, we recommend to fire the stoneware to cone 06, not to cone 04. At cone 04, the ware is too tight and does not absorb the glazes well. Also, if you first high-fire the ware to cone 6, you should then glaze and re-fire to cone 06.

Yes, it is ok to bisque fire to cone 6 and then glaze and fire to cone 06. Be careful which glaze you use, as most clear glazes will craze on high-fired stoneware. Use Seeley's new *Sparkle Clear G500* glaze, apply your crystals – we recommend dinnerware- safe Spectrum's - and fire to cone 06. If you wish to high-fire the glazes to cone 6, use a high-firing clear glaze such as Seeley's GGL150 or Spectrum's 1100, apply the crystals and fire to cone 6.

You may want to try both approaches and then use the method that, in your opinion, renders the best result.

### Firing underglazes direct to cone 5

**Q** Can I use Duncan Cover Coats (underglazes) to paint on stoneware greenware and then fire directly to a cone 5?  
Annie.

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**A** Dear Annie: Yes, they can be fired up to cone 5-6 without any problem. You may, with some of the underglazes, notice a slight variation in color compared to when they are fired to cone 06.

### Brown Stoneware

**Q** I just made a fish plate from a slab of fairly dark brown stoneware. I am wondering what is the best way to put a little color on it? Diane.

**A** Dear Diane: Since your fish plate is in the greenware state, the best way to color it is to apply a high-firing glaze or underglaze and then fire it to cone 5-6 (if that is the manufacturer's recommended temperature for maturity).

Use any of Seeley's Galaxy glazes (speckled or non-speckled) and fire directly to cone 6. Since your “canvas” is dark, you may wish to try various effects with the different glazes.

You may also apply an underglaze (overall coverage or making a design with concentrated detail strokes) and fire to cone 6. You may then wish to put more life into your piece by applying a clear glaze, in which case you should use Seeley's G500 and fire to cone 06. The G500 does not craze on high fired, vitreous bisque.

### Firing Stoneware and clear glazing on top of design

**Q** I poured a few pieces with Seeley's stoneware slip. These pieces I want to fire to cone 5 first, then paint with low fire underglazes and fire to cone 06.

**I.** Can I stack the greenware I am firing on top of each other like I do with earthenware?

2. When I paint a design on a mug with 06 underglazes, what clear glaze goes on top?

**ANSWER TO # 1:** Yes, you can stack some stoneware pieces in a similar way to earthenware. Because of the high temperature, you have to consider the shape of the piece. In the case of flat plates, for instance, they can be stacked higher than other designs, as one just sits on top of the other. In the case of bowls, there often is pressure from the top one on the wall of the bottom one, which may lead to warping. You may stack the bowls rim-to-rim, thus stacking two and saving space. The fact that unglazed pieces are touching is not an issue with stoneware. They will not fuse.

**ANSWER TO #2:** Most underglazes fire well to cone 6. If you are painting a stoneware mug in greenware with underglazes and wish to fire to cone 6 with a clear glaze on top, use Seeley's clear glaze GGL 150. If you are painting a mug, which is already fired to cone 5-6, apply the underglazes, let dry well and then flow on one or two coats of Seeley's G500, and fire to cone 06. The G500 Sparkle Clear does not craze on mature stoneware bisque.

Why don't you contact Seeley's (toll-free: 1-800-433-1911) and ask for their current seminar brochure and seminar schedule?

Ask for Customer Service and they will tell you where the seminars are offered. You will feel better about most of the important business decisions you have to make in the business of stoneware, whether it is teaching, selling the ware or both.