

in the buff

Sept' 2014

Snippets of news & special offers from Clayman



Whirlers!

Unbeatable Quality & Value!
From £22 inc. VAT each

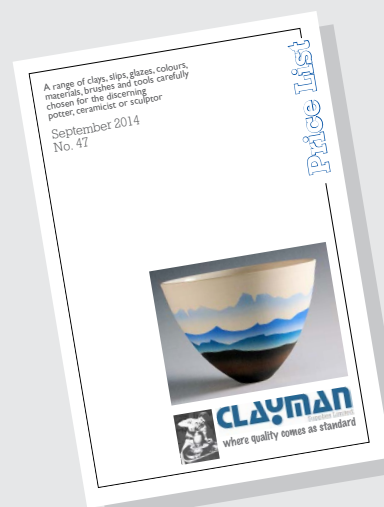
175mm, 190mm, 200mm & 240mm diameters available

SPECIAL OFFERS

70%
off



Selected Café Colours & Underglazes!
60ml - from £0.95 + VAT 500ml - from £5.17 + VAT



PRICE LIST - SEPTEMBER 2014

We are moving away from the paper Price List and now have digital copies online, available for download.

Look out for the latest issue of our Price List, available for download at www.claymansupplies.co.uk by the end of September.

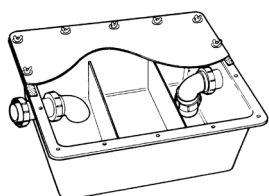
6996/1 – W681
RECOVERY TRAP
 2.3 litre



The W681 Recovery Trap is an innovative, inexpensive solution to preventing clay and glaze materials blocking waste pipes. The system easily fits most standard sink cabinet areas and is easily maintained in minutes. Recommended for light to medium use.

The W681 Trap is easily installed. The trap is connected below the sink and collects solids in a bottle. Bottle exchange is rapid and done without the need of tools.

6999 - Clay Trap



The Clay Trap measures 552 x 400 x 270mm deep and has a 20 litre capacity. The cut-away lid, in our illustration reveals the two weirs, the inlet on the left and the outlet, which has a 76mm water seal on the right. Both inlet and outlet have coupling nuts for joining to 38mm 'Vulcathene Mechanical' pipe. The lid, which has a sealing ring, is retained in position with fourteen wing nuts.

HANDY HINT!

Preparing & Storing Glazes

If you have bought a glaze in powder form or plan to mix your own glazes you will need to prepare them prior to use. You will need a sieve (80's for stoneware and 120's for earthenware), a large brush (lawn brush), two wooden slats, and two plastic containers. Before starting make sure all of your utensils are clean.

1. Partly fill one of the containers with water (a third of the container is reasonable but the exact amount will depend on the amount of glaze you are preparing. Trial and error is the best way of discovering the correct amount). Put the glaze powder into the water and mix. (N.B. Always wear a suitable mask when preparing glaze.)
2. Place the sieve over the second container using the slats as support. It is important to ensure it is stable. Pour the glaze mixture into the sieve until it is half full. Use the lawn brush to push the glaze slowly through the sieve, using a circular movement. Squeegee all of the material left in the first container into the sieve using a rubber kidney. Repeat the brushing process until all the glaze has passed through the sieve. Some material residue may be left in the sieve. If this is found dispose of it with care.
3. The product you now have is referred to as glaze slop and could be used immediately, although we recommend leaving the slop overnight before use.
4. When left the glaze slop will settle out. You will find a slurry of glaze material at the bottom of your container and clear water at the top. At this stage carefully pour off some of the clear water (try pouring off half as a starting point). Stir the glaze, ensuring all the slurry is dispersed in the water. A problem facing all beginners is what thickness the glaze should be. Glaze makers can make recommendations, but the final choice is with the potter and what results they want to achieve. A standard is that transparent glaze will always be thinner than opaque glazes and generally the analogy to single cream for consistency is used. The best way to find the desired thickness that suits you and also as a means of comparing different consistencies is to carry out trials. Make up test tiles with one hole near to one of the sides to enable it to be tied to the glaze tub for quick visual reference. If you use more than one clay make tiles in all the clays that may be used with the glaze. Glaze and mark the tiles. The results of firing these should provide you with very useful information. When you have tested and found your best consistency it is a good idea to weigh a known quantity of the glaze slop and record the result. This is often known or referred to as the pint weight. All future mixes of the glaze are then corrected to this pint weight by adding or removing water. Another way of measuring consistency is by using a hydrometer.
5. Always store mixed glazes in containers with tight fitting lids. This helps prevent contamination and water evaporating off the surface. As mentioned previously when using a glaze that has stood for a time always ensure all slurry is dispersed in the standing water. Occasionally it is good practice to re-sieve the glaze to ensure the glaze is always at its best.
6. It can be found that some glazes form a "pan", hard lump at the bottom of the container when stored. This is a particular characteristic of glazes containing high proportions of frit. This hard lump is often difficult to break up and disperse with the water, but it is essential this is done before the glaze is used. When the correct glaze consistency is achieved, a suspending agent can be added (proprietary suspending agent, bentonite or calcium chloride are all available for this use). Suspender should be added with caution. Refer to our special note on adding suspending agents.

REFERENCE NOTES

The amount of water required to mix any glaze will vary from glaze to glaze depending on the clay content (Ball Clay, China Clay etc) of the glaze. The porosity of your bisque fired clay, the time taken in dipping into the glaze, and the maturing temperature of the glaze are all factors that need considering.

A glaze intended for spraying should always be of a thinner consistency than that used for dipping. Trying to spray a glaze with a specific gravity that is correct for dipping will nearly always result in the spray gun blocking.



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