



Glaze Raking on Pottery & Glass with Michael Harbridge

Materials List

Bisque Shapes of Choice

Ceramic Glazes

- Assorted Mayco Stroke & Coat, Duncan Concepts, or Gare Fun Strokes
- Clear Dipping Glaze of Choice

Brushes By Royal & Langnickel

- Assorted Glaze Brushes
- Liner Brush

Miscellaneous

- Water
- Banding Wheel
- Plastic writer tips or bottles

Glass Color

- Assorted Glass Colors from Colors for Earth, Unique Glass Colors or Creative Paradise Hues to Fuse

Glass

- Glass Colors work on any COE
- White Vinegar

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Following the steps in this process is important. Not following each instruction can result in colors pulling back (known as crawling). It's best to read through all instructions first so you can work quickly when painting. You want to work quickly so the color does not dry before raking.

Small Shapes

Step 1: Wet bisque surface right before painting. We're talking wet! Dunking in water is not a bad thing for this technique. Why you ask? You want the ware to be wet so the colors don't dry fast. This allows more time to manipulate the color. And, since you are applying the color so thick, this helps adhere the color to the ware better.

Step 2: Apply a thin coat of white glaze (Stroke & Coat, Concepts or Fun Strokes) and scrub with brush into surface. This coat is important in helping prevent color from crawling when fired.

Step 3: Do not allow to dry. Immediately start dabbing on the glazes in strips or rings. Puddle it on heavy enough that you can't see the white.

Step 3: Use the liner to pull lines out from the center and in from the outer edges. Pull the lines straight or in a wavy motion. You can also add dabs of color at this point and pull out.

Step 4: Allow sufficient drying time. Remember how wet we made the piece? It's going to take longer to dry. Trust me. And don't go doing anything crazy like setting it in front of a fan or on top of a hot kiln hoping to dry it quicker. Forcing it to dry fast will likely cause the colors to pull back and crawl before or during firing. Trust me, I've tried it, and that's what happens. You can set it in the kiln room, just not on the kiln. It may take a day or two to dry.

Step 5: In the previous step, we mention letting it dry for a couple of days. At this point you have not dipped or brushed with clear. And that's for good reason. Since the shape is so wet, you'll likely smudge the design and clear glaze does not adhere well to wetness. So only dip/brush like you normally would when the item is dry. Don't try skipping this step thinking you have enough glaze on the item. No clear glaze will result in glaze crawling back. Again, trust me. I've tried it and it does not come out looking pretty with bare bisque showing. And if the piece is full of water and the glazes are wet when you try to fire it, the moisture will turn to steam, cause the colors to bubble as that steam tries to get out, and you won't like the look.

Step 6: Allow sufficient drying time before firing to cone 06.

Large or Round Shapes

Follow the same process as for small items, but rather than dabbing the colors on with a brush, use writer bottles to squeeze the color on the ware. This is especially helpful with large round shapes and platters. Use a banding wheel and center the item on the wheel for the quickest process.

Glaze Raking On Glass

Do this same method on glass, but because the surface is so slick, you don't need to wet it. Clean the glass well with white vinegar, puddle colors and pull. Instead of clear glaze, cap with clear glass after colors have dried and fire according to full fuse glass program. If using Concepts, colors fire close to what you see when colors are dry. Leave a half inch space along edge of glass without color so the glass can fuse together. You can also use glass colors and most don't require a top layer of glass and fire out very bright.

The vase shown to the right was completed with glass colors on window glass. Any COE of glass will work with these colors.



Pull your lines on in an "S" stroke rather than straight to get a varied pattern.



These plates were glazed and fired from the dollar store. They do not require soaking in water since water will not soak in. They should have a coat of clear glaze applied when dry, before firing.



This image is an example of glaze crawling. This will happen if you have too thick of color, don't dappen bisque, forget to scrub in a coat of white or neglect to apply clear glaze when working with ceramics.