

Stamping with Colorful Backgrounds

By Artist Michael Harbridge

See this technique in action! Video recording of the live webinar available at www.ceramicarts.com.

Materials List

For Stamping:

Bisque: Various shapes of choice

Colors:

Duncan E-Z Strokes

Stamps: By ClayPuzzling.com

ST1 through ST28 stamps were used on the samples shown here. Sets are also available.

Brushes & Tools:

Dagger brush

Stiff Fan

R2845-6 Glaze Fan Brush,

RD411 Sponge Rollers

SG1400-1 Soft Goat Mop

Misc.

Banding Wheel

Glazed Tile

Cotton Swabs

Painter Tape (optional)

Contact the artist:

Michael Harbridge

P.O. Box 108

Iola, WI 54945

info@claypuzzling.com

www.claypuzzling.com

715-281-6450



Create endless designs and colorful patterns with this simple stamping technique.

Step 1) Choose your bisque shapes and colors. Duncan E-Z Strokes are recommended for the colorful backgrounds. They are highly pigmented, so even when diluted to a wash, still retain bright colors. These stamps work great of flat or rounded surfaces. The foam on the backs make them easy to pick up and position, but flexible enough to get around rounded edges. Mask out areas where you don't want background colors with tape.

Step 2) Choose your colors. Stamping can be done on the bare bisque (so background is white) or over colors. The samples shown above are done over color washes. Masking tape can be applied if you want to block out color from some areas. . The large bowl shown above was done with Neon Yellow, Neon Orange, and Neon Red. The colors were diluted with three parts water to one part color. Use the large mop brush to pick up the lightest color and dab randomly over the background. Without washing the brush, dip into the next darkest color and dab randomly, working the colors wet into wet. Without washing the brush, pick up the next darkest color and dab randomly wet into wet. If colors do not blend as you'd like, load brush with water and work over colors to soften and blend. Don't apply the color very thick. It should be a soft blend like watercolor. If you use glaze based products like Concepts heavy application of color can create issues when stamping. If the colors are thick and damp, the stamps can actually pick up the base color when the stamp is lifted.

Step 3) Choose your stamps. Colors other than black can be used on the stamps, but darker colors do show up best.



Step 4) Add chosen color to a glazed ceramic tile and roll the sponge roller over the color repeatedly to load the entire roller. Roll many times to get the color evenly distributed to the sponge. You don't want the roller to be dripping with color, but you want the sponge saturated.

Step 5) Gently roll the loaded sponge roller over the stamp to apply color. Don't press hard, or it will cause the color to puddle in the lower areas of the stamp. If that does happen, use a cotton swab to remove color from the area, and roll again with color. Check outer edges of stamp for color. Use cotton swab on edges to remove color.

Step 6) Lift the stamp by the edges, turn over, and press into place and press over entire stamp. Use fingers from one hand to hold the stamp in place, and the other to press. If working on a rounded edge, press the main area of the stamp on the flat area, and then continue to work the stamp around the curve. Slowly lift the stamp, making certain it's made contact on all areas. If not, press back down to fill any missed spots.

Step 7) Continue to add more stamp designs and allow them to overlap and go off the edges of shapes. Always reapply color to the stamp with the roller each time you stamp. Play around by adding multiple colors to each stamp. Use multiple rollers, one for each color and overlap the colors randomly on the stamp.

Step 8) Add any colorful bands and use a banding wheel and dagger brush to band black lines (or colors of choice).

Step 9) Use a stiff fan brush to splatter black (or colors of choice) over the surface. This helps disguise any little specs of color that may have appeared on blank areas and adds to the overall design.

Step 10) Allow all colors to dry and dip or apply clear glaze of choice and fire to appropriate cone for clay body and glaze selected.

This snowflake platter has a wash of two shades of blue and a little purple, Notice how the stamps done with the deep blue and teal stand out more than the stamping done with the purple. Edges were banded with blue and splattered with blue.

If you are not good at banding, use a sea sponge with color around the edges of your shapes.

Join the Webinar Club and get access to all these great recorded webinars! Full details are at www.ceramicarts.com, and click on the education tab.





Check out all the great products at www.claypuzzling.com! Don't forget to use any discount codes offered for a limited time when you participate in webinars or the Webinar Club.

- ~ Clay Puzzling Molds
- ~ Stamps
- ~ Stencils
- ~ Tools
- ~ Leaf forms
- ~ and so much more!

Did you miss the webinar showing how these same stamps can be used with colors on bisque?



Would you like to learn more techniques from Michael Harbridge?



Michael Teachers workshops around the country in a variety of methods. Host a workshop in your studio. Contact Michael at info@claypuzzling.com.



Watch for updates on his facebook page. www.facebook.com/michael.harbridge or join his mailing list at www.LearnFiredArts.com.



Take the ultimate workshops with Michael Harbridge!

Join him in his central Wisconsin studio that has been completely renovated to accommodate up to 24 students making a variety of projects including clay building, glass, traditional and not so traditional methods. Construction is near completion for new added space and an indoor/outdoor raku kiln room with electric and gas kilns.

Get all the details at www.claypuzzling.com or join the mailing list at www.LearnFiredArts.com to get notifications.



New addition set to open
May 2019 for the annual
spring retreat.

