

Jason Briggs

Workshop recipes, notes.

<u>Porcelain (briggs)</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>20 lb. batch =</u>	<u>grams</u>
Grolleg	55.0	11.0	4994.0
Custer	32.0	6.4	2905.6
Flint	13.0	2.6	1180.4
+ Macaloid	0.7	0.14	63.6

20 lb. batch:

In a 5 gallon bucket, blunge macaloid LIKE CRAZY in 3 gallons DISTILLED hot water. LET SIT 3-4 DAYS. Add grolleg, custer, and flint. Do not mix while adding powders, just let it slurry down (1-2 hours...). Mix at SLOW speed. Add water to thin if necessary. Check in 6 hours to be sure there is water standing on the surface, then let sit for at least 2 days. (3 weeks would be nice.) Pour through 60 mesh screen. Pour onto plaster bats.

Notes...

- Amount of macaloid is variable. Less (.5%) makes carving a bit difficult, but causes less shrinkage. More (2%) does the opposite, but also makes for a harder bone-dry surface, which means more difficult finger-sanding. If throwing isn't a priority, go low.
- If the clay in the bucket seems excessively thin and settles out, it's deflocculated. This seems to occur for various reasons, including the type of grolleg, or minerals in the water. You can flocculate the clay with dissolved Epsom Salts.

#25 Rutile Wash

2 C. hot water + ½ t. CMC gum + ½ t. Frit 3134 + ¼ t. Rutile

Blend with a stick blender. Let settle 60 minutes to allow large iron particles to settle. Pour off remainder.

Vodka Tonic

Fill tumbler with ice. Don't be stingy. Add 2 or 3 healthy shots of Vodka (Skyy, if you hate hangovers). Top off with Tonic water. Add a lime wedge. Or a splash of Cranberry juice, Orangetello, or Pama Liqueur.

Notes...

- Quinine was once considered medicine.

Terra Sigilatta

Add dry clay to double its weight in water. (Example, 15 lbs. GoldArt clay added to 30 lbs. water.) While mixing rapidly, slowly add Sodium Silicate until mix visibly thins. Within 3 minutes mixture should be settling out. Reaching in, you should begin to feel a distinct layer of sludge at the bottom of the bucket. If using GoldArt clay, allow mix to settle for approximately 20 hours. (Other clays will require more or less time.) Siphon off top, thin later. Discard the thick sludge.

- I use Terra Sigilatta for its coloring properties (i.e. flashing in soda atmosphere) and its fine particle size. If you desire its burnished effect, be sure its Specific Gravity is 1.15 (hydrometer), and don't fire above cone 01. You may need 3-5 layers of burnished T.S.
- To add color, mix stain directly into finished terra sig using high speed kitchen blender. One cup terra sig needs up to 3 teaspoons colorant (1 Tablespoon), and often less than that.

Sanding green and fired Porcelain

Sanding bone dry clay is hazardous; under a hood or outside in a breeze is best. 3M padded sandpaper (fine) is great for raw clay, then use your fingers to eliminate scratches. Sanding *fired* porcelain requires elbow grease, and clay that has been fired to its vitreous stage. (Cone 9-10 reduction for above recipe). Start with 220 grit (which smooths and removes surface color), then progress through 400, 600, and/or 1500 for a shine. Sanding to a shine works much better on reduced porcelain.

Consider: Paasche makes a tiny sandblaster that is great for removing stain from fired clay, and also for dulling shiny areas, including glaze. It's called an Air Eraser. Use before sandpaper. So small you can use it outside without a hood.

White Russian

Fill bar glass ½ full of ice. Add 1 part Kahlua and 1 ½ parts Vodka. Top off with Half & Half. If you're cheap, use milk.

Words

"If words cost a penny, silence costs two." -unknown

"If you can talk someone out of being an artist, they weren't meant to be one in the first place." –Phillip Gustin

"Good art gets truer the older it is." -Academia

"Inspiration is for amateurs." -Chuck Close

"God, protect me from your followers." –bumper sticker in Florida

"I've found it, and now my finger stinks." –bumper sticker in Wisconsin

"I hate this part of Texas." –Restroom stall in southern Idaho (Charles Kuralt)