



# Diffused Poinsettia

By Helen Daum

**D**iffusion is a technique done with Colors for Earth Crystal Clear Brushing Glaze on top of the raw (unfired) Potters Stone Buff and Trend Stones by Colors for Earth. Enhanced diffusion can be achieved by placing Color Concentrates on the bisque before applying the Potters Stone Buff, Yellow Stone Buff, or Trend Stones and diffusing through the color. Each piece is unique, and the results are always a delight! Since the Clear Glaze is a moving glaze and the Potters Stone Buff, Yellow Stone Buff and Trend Stone are matte,

## Trade Term:

Fully Load—Working color into all the hairs of the brush, including turning the brush over while loading to make sure all the hairs are covered.

## Technique Tip:

The brushes listed in this project are what is recommended and may vary in size by manufacturer. I recommend using sable, natural hair brushes. This will allow you to achieve the same color depth I achieved in decoration. If using a synthetic or taklon brush, more coats may need to be applied because these brushes do not hold as much color as the sable brushes. A sable brush, like your own hair, holds moisture when it is wet; therefore, it will hold the needed water or product. A synthetic (man-made hair) brush has a waxy coating on it that will not absorb the product and it will tend to slide off of the brush.

## Technique Tip:

The heavier the application of the Clear Glaze the better and larger the diffusion. The firing range can also effect the diffusion. Remember: Do not place the designs too close together or the diffused areas will overlap each other and make it difficult to find the pattern.

non-moving glazes. The Clear Glaze moves and allows the matte glazes to show from underneath. Diffusion can be applied with a brush, Gizmo or bottle and tip. This design is created on the Scalloped Salad Plate by Mayco, and the color decoration is done with Red Trend Stone. You will transfer the design onto the ware and then use a moving, Clear Glaze to create a diffused design. Please read through all the instructions first before starting the project for a better understanding of the technique. Also, this may answer some questions before getting started. Should you have any questions or comments on this technique, please don't hesitate to contact me. This project is © 2008 by Helen Daum. All rights reserved.

**Step 1** Use a rubber scrubber or fine sandpaper to lightly remove any imperfections or rough areas on the bisque. Wipe the piece down with a damp sponge to remove any dust and to add a slight amount of moisture to the ware for smooth color application. If starting with greenware, remove all seams and wipe with a damp sponge to remove any dust and fire to witness cone 04.

**Step 2** Apply four coats of Red Stone using a fully loaded soft fan glaze. Since this is a matte glaze, it as smoothly as possible and in one direction. For best results, apply the glaze following the curve of the plate. Make sure the glaze is dry between coats and there are no ridges in the application, as this is a non-moving glaze and it will level out in the firing.

**Step 3** While the coats of glaze are drying, trace the pattern onto tissue paper with a pencil. After the last coat of glaze is dry, transfer the design onto the plate using a watercolor marker.

## Technique Tip:

This glaze is virtually trouble-free. However, if the ware comes out of the kiln with a rough surface there are usually two causes:

- The glaze application was light, and you need to switch to a four-coat application.
- The 06 witness cone in the kiln did not reach maturity.

## Bisque

### *Lesson Plan*

### Objectives

- Use natural hair brushes for the best effect.
- Create a textured design by combining a flowing and non-flowing glaze.

### Materials

#### **Bisque: By Mayco**

#4191 Salad Plate

#### **Color: By Colors for Earth**

##### **Color Concentrates**

CC101 Cobalt Black

CC136 Purple Sage

CC186 Burnt Sienna

##### **CFE Glazes**

CG900 Crystal Clear Brushing Glaze

CGE591 Red Stone Glaze

### Brushes: Brand of Choice

#6 Soft Fan Glaze

#2 Round

#5 Round

#4 Liner

Small Taklon Fan Brush

### Miscellaneous: Brand of Choice

Natural Sponge

Tissue Paper

Pencil

Fine Point Permanent Marker or

Watercolor Marker

Palette (with Paint Wells)

Water Bowl

Scissors

Rubber Scrubber

Fine Sandpaper

### Kiln Requirements:

- Of adequate size to fit the bisque piece
- Capable of firing to cone 04

### Contact the Artist

Helen Daum

17098 Pheasant Meadow LN SW

Prior Lake, MN. 55372

(952) 447-6421

ceramicteacher@mchsi.com



**Step 4** Fully load a round fitting comfortably in the design with Crystal Clear and apply it to each petal and leaf of the design. For this design, two coats of Crystal Clear need to be applied to get a good diffusion. Try to fill in the pattern with one stroke of the brush. If you dab at the pattern with the Crystal Clear, some areas of the diffusion will appear heavier than others. Thus, when painting a petal, start at the center of the flower and pull out to the tip in one stroke.

**Step 5** Let the piece dry thoroughly, stilt and fire it to cone 06 or 05.

### Technique Tip:

Use a palette with a paint well to keep the colors moist so less product is wasted—especially if you have to walk away from the project at any time. Also, covering the palette with cling wrap will preserve some of the product overnight. You can also purchase a palette with a cover at some craft stores. Also, place a damp sponge in the center of the paint well to blot the brush on while working and changing colors.

