

Horse Pitcher

By Tricia Hardy



Dappled
coloring
achieved
by blowing
bubbles!

Step 1: Carefully clean greenware, restoring any detail as needed.

Step 2: Make a wash of Black. Start with water, add a little color to the water, and mix; you can always add more color. Using the large Sumi brush, apply wash around the horse's eyes and muzzle, letting the color fade away from the edges. Do not worry too much about evenness; the bubble technique will blend these areas.

Step 3: Mix water with Black, as above, and add a drop or two of liquid soap. The more color you use, the stronger the bubble color will be. I like to work with the cup of color in one hand and the greenware in the other; I keep the straw in my mouth. I found out the hard way that colored soapy water does not taste very good, although one of my students got a good laugh out of it!





Blow through the straw into the soapy colored water until the bubbles rise up above the edges of the cup. Quickly touch the greenware to the bubbles *without* letting the greenware touch the rim of the cup – you don't want to end up with rings of color from the rim of the cup. Work the bubbles all over the skin areas of the horse. Getting under the chin is a bit tricky; you might need to lay the greenware on its side and use the straw to scrape some bubbles over the rim of the cup onto the piece. Be careful that the bubbles don't drip and run down the piece.

Step 4: Paint the eyes with a round brush using Burnt Sienna for the iris and adding a Black pupil and White highlight (a comma stroke with a dot of white next to it). I also detail around the eye with the Black.

Step 5: Paint the mane black. I usually add some Black around the edges of the inside of the mouth and the pitcher's rim on top, too. You can also paint the bottom black, cover it using the bubble technique, or leave it bare and let the final glaze color it.

Step 6: Fire to cone 04.

Step 7: Wipe any dust from the piece. Thin Black Matt to milk consistency and roll carefully inside the pitcher. You may want to plug the mouth with a sponge or paper towels to prevent drips of color getting on the outside. If you do get some drips on the outside, wipe them off with a clean sponge.

Step 8: Antique using one thinned coat of Burnt Umber. Wipe back piece with sponge and water, rinsing the sponge often so that you're not just moving color around.

Step 9: Paint two coats of Crystal Clear Glaze on the eyes only. Apply three smooth coats of Potters Stone Buff on everything except the eyes. Let all glazes dry between coats.

Step 10: Stilt and fire to cone 06.

Options: You can alter the colors as desired. I have left off the antiquing on one, added a layer of grey bubbles over the black bubbles on another, and done one in grey bubbles with no antiquing. *FAC*

Materials

Mold by Doc Holliday Molds

(www.dochollidaymolds.net)
2863 Horse Pitcher

Colors by Colors for Earth

(www.colorsforearth.com)
CC101 Black
CC102 White
CC186 Burnt Sienna
CC900 Crystal clear
CGE590 Potters Stone Buff
CGE597 Black Matt
CS680 Burnt Umber

Brushes

Large Sumi brush
Liner brush
Round brush
Fan blaze brush

Miscellaneous

Sponge
Water bowl
Cleaning tools
Plastic cup, 4 oz.
Liquid soap
Drinking straw

Tricia Hardy has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Fairleigh Dickenson University and is a graduate of the Newark School of Fine & Industrial Arts, both in New Jersey. She and her husband run Mad Ceramics Studio in Mocksville, N.C., where she specializes in custom painting horses and companion animals from photo references. Hardy also teaches ceramics at Ellis Park in Spencer, N.C. She recently won the Masters award at the 2011 SC competition. Find out more at www.madceramics.com and www.horseramics.com.