

# St. Patrick's Day Plate

By Paula McCoy



**Step 1:** Clean greenware.

**Step 2:** Use the pencil to draw a wavy line around the plate about 1½ inches from the outer edge.

**Step 3:** Transfer the shamrock pattern to all five points of the plate, about ½ inch from the edge, using clay carbon (see photo).

**Step 4:** Use clay carbon to copy the words "Happy St. Patrick's Day!" and the hat pattern and transfer them to the center of the plate.

**Step 5:** Use a pencil to divide each side of the plate border, between shamrocks, into four sections.

**Step 6:** Condition an old round brush with liquid soap, then apply a generous coat of Latex Mask to all five shamrocks around the edge. Allow latex to dry – it will remain tacky to the touch when dry.

**Step 7:** Use the 1-inch foam brush to paint in the large Lime Green stripes. For each stripe, center the foam brush over your pencil line marking the border sections. Apply three coats to each large stripe.



**Step 8:** Use the #10 square shader and Green Leaf for the medium stripes. Apply two coats to each medium stripe, placing the stripe within the right side of each large green stripe (looking at the bottom edge of the plate) so that a small strip of the large stripe appears to the right of the medium stripe (see photo).

**Step 9:** Use a #1 Liner brush and Laurel Green to paint a wavy line down the length of each large Lime Green stripe (see photo).

**Step 10:** Remove the latex mask from the shamrocks by lifting one edge and peeling back.

**Step 11:** Frame the border with a #1 Liner brush and Laurel Green, creating a wavy edge that connects with the ends of the stripes you created in previous steps.

**Step 12:** Use a #4 square shader to apply three coats of Green Leaf to each shamrock around the edge. Outline the shamrocks and add a comma stroke in the upper right leaf with a #1 Liner brush and Laurel Green.

**Step 13:** Use the #4 square shader to block in three coats of Green Leaf on the hatband and the shamrock on the hat. Use a liner or detail brush to block in two coats of Curry on the buckle.

**Step 14:** Apply three coats of Laurel Green to the rest of the hat.

**Step 15:** Retrace the pattern on the hat. Use the wire-loop tool to carve out lines through the color and down to the greenware on the crown of the hat and on the brim to define the edges. These lines appear white on the photo. Carve out the stem from the shamrock to the hatband, as well. Paint in the carved stem with Green Leaf.



**Step 15:** Using a liner brush, paint Green Leaf vines from the hat to the leaves, using Laurel Green for the curls. The miniature shamrocks at the end of the vines are applied with the tip of a brush handle

or stylus in groups of three using Laurel Green. Place two dots side by side next to the stem and one dot centered on top of other two.

## Materials

### Suggested Ware by Starlite Mold Company

(www.starlitemolds.com)

Duncan DM-2273 Geo Plate Pentagon

### Colors by Colors for Earth

(www.colorsforearth.com)

#### Color Concentrates:

CC125 Curry

CC161 Green Leaf

CC162 Laurel Green

#### Color Strokes:

CS660 Lime Green

#### Specialty Products:

CSP50 Latex Mask

#### Glazes:

CSP01 Gloss Medium NT Clear

#### Brushes

#1 Liner

#4 & #10 Square Shader

Fan glaze brush

Old #4 Round (for latex)

1-inch foam brush

#### Miscellaneous

Sponge

Clay Carbon

Stylus

Water bowl

Paint well palette

Kemper W2-Wire Loop Sgraffito Tool

Pencil

Liquid soap

Lure Lock Cap & Fuzzy Writer Tip from Colors for Earth



#### About the artist

Paula McCoy is an artist, ceramics instructor, and the co-owner of Colors for Earth. She has been involved in the ceramic arts for more than 20 years and has been involved with major product certifications, including work with the Ceramic Art Institute. McCoy has also done samples for many major mold companies, and she's developed and written hundreds of project techniques she calls "Class-in-a-Bags." Find out more at [www.colorsforearth.com](http://www.colorsforearth.com).



**Step 16:** The small leaves on the vines are done with a wedge stroke. Load a #4 square shader with Leaf Green and corner load with Laurel Green. Start at the vine and pull out for each stroke.

**Wedge Stroke:** Using a square shader, hold straight up and angle the brush slightly. Touch the surface, pressing the angled shader firmly against the ware to fan the bristles out. Pull the brush downward, toward yourself. Lift slowly off the ware on the chisel edge, creating a slight tail to each stroke. *Do not pivot the brush.*

**Step 17:** Add a cap and tip to a bottle of Laurel Green to fill in the words on the plate, writing with the bottle instead of a brush. The fuzzy tip will create a wider line for a more whimsical look. When finished, remove cap and tip and clean with water.





# Happy St. Patrick's Day!



**Step 18:** Transfer a shamrock to the center of the back side of the plate. Repeat Step 12 to paint the shamrock. Add curls and vines coming out from shamrock as in Step 15. Add dot shamrocks with stems to each corner using Laurel Green.

Carry over the stripes from the front side to the back of the plate, matching up the colors and stripes at the edge of the plate so that they look like they wrap around. Allow the plate to dry.

**Step 19:** Fire to witness cone 04.

**Step 20:** Use a fan glaze brush to apply two coats of Gloss Medium NT Clear glaze to the front and back of plate. Allow to dry.

**Step 21:** Stilt and fire to witness cone 06. *FAC*