

Blending Basics

All of the Products in the Colors For Earth Firing System have been formulated for easy and consistent color blending by hand. This simple system allows you to create 100's of color and product combinations for your fired arts projects. You are in control when color matters!

What is a Measurement for Blends ?

All the blends follow a "part measurement". A part can be obtained through filling a measuring spoon, measuring cup, a plastic spoon, any vessel that holds liquid. This simple system allows you to blend as little as 2 ounces or as much as a gallon.

A (part) can also be mixed on your palette. For very small blends, like creating made for bisque glaze strokes. Use the visual dot measurement. 1 part color concentrate to 2 parts gloss medium. Place one dot, then in close proximity place 2 dots. Use your palette knife or brush to blend.

Lesson plans available on the web site will guide you through some blends, and you can see how very easy it is..

Don't Mix Apples and Oranges???

Did we get your attention? This information is extremely important if you want to become an expert at using your Custom Color System. When creating Blends you will find the viscosity (thick or thinness) of a product will vary because of a particular oxide that is used to make each color. The following colors such as White, Curry, Some of the Greens and Browns will become a thick gel.

If you add a measure of a thick gel to a measure of a thinner medium, you have actually added as much as twice the color as you have medium. Your blend will be incorrect. So you will want the color to be the consistency of cream or about the same consistency as the medium to which you will be blending it with. Remember you can add a few drops of water to the concentrate bottles to establish a cream consistency, but only after you have shaken vigorously.

Temper The Color

Tempering your color with the base medium for off palette (*meaning you are mixing 2 ounces or more*) blending is important. This step will assure you consistent color.

1. Measure your color.
2. Measure your blending medium.
3. Add some of the measured medium to the color. Blend well with a small fan brush to temper the color and get it acquainted with the medium. When totally blended, add to the full medium measure and continue to blend with the fan brush.

For mixing gallon quantities... a paint mixer is recommended. (The kind found at paint stores that fit on the end of a drill.)

Recommended Containers and equipment for doing blending.	
Plastic Spoons	
Small 1 inch soft goat hair fan brushes.	They are the very best for mixing your blend.
Containers Clean, Plastic throw-a-ways.	In The Factory Studio we use... 3 ounce lidded plastic cups. They seem to be the perfect size for our projects. And the lids are helpful to retain remnants of blends until the piece comes out of the final firing. These are available at local Warehouse Club Stores.
Styrofoam Bowls	For mixing 4 to 10 ounces of color work well.
Wet Wipes	Great for some clean ups
Paper Towels	Who can survive without these at hand?
A Squeeze Bottle for water.	For thinning Color Concentrates when needed.

Products that can be Blended with CFE Color Concentrates

CSP01 - Gloss Medium – (Non Leaded) When adding Color Concentrate to the Gloss Medium you have created a colored gloss glaze. For creating a colored gloss glaze the typical blend ratio is 4 parts Gloss Medium to 1 part Color Concentrate. This creates a 3 to 4 coat gloss glaze.

The Gloss Medium is perfect to create the popular “Made for bisque glazes strokes”. This is a 1 part color to 1 part Gloss Medium. Use for brushwork then cover with 2 coats of CG900 Clear Brushing Glaze.

CSP02 – Designer Glaze Medium – (Non Leaded) Color Concentrate strokes enhanced with Designer Glaze Medium for application on bisque. Designer Glaze Medium is a semi gloss/semi matt when not covered by CG900 Clear Brushing Glaze. A normal blend of 1/4 part Designer Glaze Medium with a full part of Color Concentrate will result in a product that glides on like silk for brushwork and pattern blocking.

Apply 2-3 coats of a clear or transparent glaze over them. Perfect for majolica atop satin or matt glazes. While you can accomplish brushstrokes and solid pattern blocking coverage with color concentrate straight, the benefits of adding a bit of CSP02 Designer Glaze Medium are many.

Color Concentrate pigments conditioned with Designer Glaze Medium. These are superior for detail application on bisque and for detail and pattern blocking.

CSP03 - Matt Medium – The normal blend ratio for a tint is 4 ounces of Matt Medium to 1 teaspoon of Color Concentrate. This creates a 3 coat color tinted transparent matt glaze.

Matt Medium is a perfect base glaze for majolica work. Apply 3 coats on ware and use color concentrates that are conditioned with matt medium (Add a drop or two of Matt Medium to the color) to do stroke work.

Opaque Matt Glaze is 4 parts Matt Medium to 1 part Color Concentrate.

CSP20 – Terra Firma – Terra Firma is used when the slip that the piece is cast from is not available. It is best to use the liquid clay body from which the ware is cast when possible. Terra Firma is used to create opaque underglazes for greenware and bisque. Refer to Engobe page for mixing directions.

If working on stoneware or porcelain you would follow the same mixes in the Engobe Blend using the clay body of your choice. Your firing temperature for greenware is determined by the clay body you are using. Do NOT use Terra Firma for high fire Engobes.

CGE590 – Potters Stone Buff – A Transparent Matt Specked Glaze. Firing range cone 6 Stoneware/Porcelain to cone 06 Earthenware. Apply 3 to 4 coats depending on your brush glazing skills. Pattern work can be applied on top of the raw glaze. If using a manual Kiln Sitter: Place a cone 05 in sitter for best results. Computer Controller Kiln: 06 program with a 20 minute hold at the end.

Blending new colors of Potters Stone Buff is easy and the results range from soft muted stone colors to dramatic “brights”. It simply depends on the amount of color concentrate (Pigments) you decide to add to the blend. When applying over very dark colors, such as black, dark blue, dark green that have been blocked in as solid coverage.. Milking may occur.

CGE502 – Ultra White - Ultra White is a Non-Toxic and food safe opaque white gloss glaze.

When using Ultra White to create a tint out of, you really can go by “What you See is What you Get”. You can achieve soft pastel colors.

Start with a small amount of color concentrate added to glaze and mix well to see color you will get. Keep adding color concentrate to deepen the color. The pigments are very concentrated and it doesn't take much to create a tint. Apply 3 coats and fire to witness cone 06 with a 20 minute hold.