

# Special Instructions (Applying Color Wash)

## Instructions for Applying Color Wash

Porcelain that is properly, cleaned, fired and polished has a very slight texture to it and the surface picks up and holds a small amount of paint when applied according to the following method. There is a definite limit to how much can be applied smoothly in each firing. We repeat the process until we achieve the desired shade of color. In this demo I am showing how to apply one coat of color to a Vanessa head to prepare it for the first firing. The wash is fired on and in this case the eyes are painted white before going on to paint the features.

The color I am using is Pecan, one of the colors in my Flesh Tone Kit. This is a popular color because it looks good with almost any hair color. It gives the skin a light rosy tan color.

Always mix the paint with Medium #1 to the consistency of toothpaste and store in a small container until needed.

For the color wash I take a small amount of the mixed paint and smear a thin layer on a tile. The idea is to use as little medium as possible to get the richest color application possible. The more medium that is used the lighter the application of color that will adhere to the porcelain. If Medium is applied first it becomes a barrier between the porcelain and the particles of pigment and flux and keeps it in suspension. It also dilutes the mix making a lighter application. For maximum color proceed as follows.

You will need: Mixed Paint, Tile, Make-up sponge, Magic Medium, a couple of scraps of clean cotton T-shirt Knit

Smear the paint on a tile with a palette knife.

Put a few drops or a small spot of Magic Medium on the tile.



Use a makeup sponge to apply the color. Go into the medium with the sponge, work the sponge on the tile pouncing it up and down to work the medium into the sponge.

Next pounce the sponge into the color on the tile up and down until the paint in the sponge is dense enough that it doesn't look wet and shiny.

Apply the paint to the head generously. With a stippler, work the paint into the hard to reach areas around the nose and eyes. Hold the piece with a scrap of T-shirt material.

Gently wipe over the whole piece with another cloth to even out the paint.

Remove the paint from the eye area with a brush dipped in water and blotted on a paper towel. Keep wiping and blotting until the eyes are clean.

Remove the paint from the lips also. Lips are colored differently from the rest of the skin so we remove the fleshtone from the lip area.

If the head has not had white slip applied to the eye area in the greenware stage and fired on, you can apply white paint as follows.

This is the method we use in my studio.

Paint a thin coat of Matte white paint. Stipple lightly with a small blender to a velvety finish.

Note: The eye doesn't need to be very white because eyes are not really very white and you can add more white if needed when you are painting the eyes later.

Stipple lightly around the mouth.

Apply wash to other parts in a similar manner, holding the parts with a cloth. Use the cloth to handle the parts and load them into the kiln so as not to get fingerprints in the paint.

