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This tile project is an easy introduction to working with clay. Buff School Clay is a great all-rounder, and is a fantastic starting point for most ceramic projects. When fired, it will turn a light buff colour which is easily glazed. To avoid curly tiles, it is best to cut clay fresh from the bag, as this clay is ready milled. Using a cheese wire, cut a slab of clay 9 x 18 x 2cm.

2



Roll the clay slab flat using rolling guides to ensure a uniform thickness. Take care when rolling out and turning the clay, and avoid lifting the clay at the edges to prevent curling. To stop the clay from sticking to the table top, roll it out on top of a cloth.

3



With a pottery knife, trim your clay slab to a 15cm by 15cm square, using the rolling guides as a straight edge. Now add texture to your tile! Marks can be made in the clay using a variety of tools, including wooden stamps.

4



Once you are happy with your design, and the tile is finished, it needs to be left to dry thoroughly. This could take several days. When the clay is completely dried out, it will turn a light grey colour and should feel warm to the touch.

5



Once your tiles are completely dry, they can be packed into the kiln for firing. When you place the tiles into the kiln, ensure they are not touching and there is sufficient room between each of them to allow the air to circulate.

6



When you have packed your kiln, it's time to set the controller for a 'bisque' or 'biscuit' firing. The settings we have listed on the next page are for a 3-stage kiln controller. If you have a 2-stage kiln controller, give us a call and we can advise on which settings to use.

Call us with any questions and our experts will be happy to help.

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For bisque firing:



- Remove the top bung from the kiln.
- Set the first ramp* for 50°C, with a target temperature of 80°C. Dwell** for 1 hour.
- Set the second ramp for 100°C, with a target temperature of 600°C. Dwell for 10 minutes.
- Replace the bung in the kiln when the temperature reaches 600°C, approximately 7 hours after the firing program has begun.
- Set the third ramp for 200°C, with a target temperature of 1,120°C. Dwell for 10 minutes.

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This bisque firing takes approximately 11 hours. Once the kiln has cooled to below 40°C, it can be opened and the ceramic tiles can be removed.

9



The tiles can now be glazed with Brush-on Earthenware Glaze. Stir the pot thoroughly, and brush on evenly. Three coats of glaze should be applied to achieve an even colour. Any glaze residue left in contact with the kiln shelf will cause the tiles to stick to the shelf. Using a damp sponge wipe off all glaze residue from the bottom of the tile, and a little bit up the sides of each tile. Take care not to remove all of the glaze on the sides of the tile as this will give an "unglazed" appearance.

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To prevent any glaze sticking to your kiln shelves, batt wash is applied as a protective layer. New kiln shelves need coating in 3 layers of batt wash, letting each coat dry between layers. For old kiln shelves, scrape off batt wash once it no longer looks smooth, and reapply as above. Pack your kiln as before.

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For earthenware glaze firing:



- Remove the top bung from the kiln.
- Set the first ramp for 100°C, with a target temperature of 600°C. Dwell for 10 minutes.
- Replace the bung in the kiln when the temperature reaches 600°C, approximately 6 hours after the firing program has begun.
- Set the second ramp for 250°C, with a target temperature of 1,040°C. Dwell for 10 minutes.

*Ramp: temperature rise, in °C, per hour. **Dwell: time held at set temperature

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This firing takes approximately 8 hours. Once the kiln has cooled to below 40°C, the kiln can be opened and the ceramic tiles can be removed.

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