



All Clays Have A “System”

that makes the clay and glaze happy together!

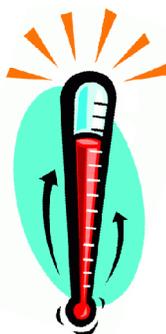
The clay should have its organic materials burned out in the bisque firing, and the bisque firing should set the correct level of absorbency for glaze to achieve the correct fit. In glaze firing, the kiln should reach the correct temperature to mature the glaze.

What Temperature Do I Fire That To ...?

Low-Fire Clay (Cone 06 Terra Cotta & Earthenware)

The system for low-fire clay is to bisque HIGH and glaze LOW.

Bisque: cone 04.
Glaze: cone 05.



Mid-Range Clay (Cone 6 Stoneware & Porcelain)

This is US! Mid-range clays and glazes have been formulated to tighten and melt at slightly lower and energy-saving temperatures compared to cone 10. We bisque a bit higher to be sure organics are gone before our glazes start to melt.

Bisque: cone 04 Glaze: cone 6.

High-Fire Clay (cone 10 traditional pottery)

This temperature range is also known for its reduction atmosphere which affects clay & glaze color.

Bisque: cone 06 Glaze: cone 10

Raku (Specialty firing, known for its copper flashiness!)

Because raku fires to cone 06 in about 20 minutes with a fossil-fueled (propane) kiln, it's key to use the correct clay.

Bisque: cone 08 Glaze: cone 06

No matter what range you fire in, the MOST IMPORTANT THING you do is the bisque fire!

Bisque always seems to LOOK okay when you pull it out of the kiln, but an incorrect bisque firing causes many serious and irreversible flaws in your finished piece. Because all those pesky organics need time to burn out, you need to fire slowly. How slow? That can be up to you. If you have a new-ish kiln with computerized controls, you have three easy options of Slow, Medium and Fast. NEVER EVER USE THE FAST SETTING FOR A BISQUE FIRING!

Clear Glazing at Cone 6

Using clear glazes at cone 6 starts with your choices of which project, which clear glaze, which clay you'll use for the project and the clear glaze. They all have to work together to get the best results for your students.

As it does with lowfire projects, **your cone 6 glaze work starts with correctly fired bisque. The correct match for mid-range work is bisque firing to cone 04.** With a cone 6 clay, this temperature leaves the body not fully matured, creating a porousness that allows the glaze to penetrate and interface with the clay body. **Several things factor into the cone 6 system:** the clay takes on a much greater role in your finished piece as the glaze color, the clay color, the clay surface and the glaze fit all play roles in the final outcome. Compare that to how the glaze forms a shell around the clay at cone 06 temperatures: it's a different process!

Clear (transparent) glazes at cone 6 are often formulated with or without ZINC. Zinc helps the glaze fit, but can compromise color. This means you have a choice to make when you select your clear glaze. Are you, or does your classroom program, like to use lots of bright and colorful underglazes? If this is the case, you want to choose the ZINC-FREE Clear (PG630) because it promotes all that color your students love. This glaze is bright and clear, but will craze on some clay bodies.

Our SUPER-CLEAR (PG629) is a bright clear that contains zinc, making it fit more clay bodies, but it does mute or change some colors.

If you want to see examples of both glazes, visit our website for the downloadable PDF information sheet on "Underglaze Color: What Glaze Should I Use?"

Everything Matters and Nothing Stays the Same.

