Making Colored Clays

| \sim | Use a white clay body | RECIPES FOR COLOR |
|--------|--|--|
| | (Porcelain, Santa Barbara White, B-Mix) | Mason Stains: |
| | Weigh out 4 pounds (easy to cut from new bag of clay) | Mason Stains provide uniform, consistent colors, especially when fired in an oxidation environment. See |
| | Cut the block (slice using a wire) into about 8 fairly even slices | www.masoncolor.com for a complete color list. Phoenix Ceramics carries these stains. They come in a powdered form. |
| | into about 6 fairly even sinces | Weight out 60 grams of a stain per 4 lbs of clay, and add a minimum of water and mix to |
| | Using colored slurry (see slurry recipes at right)) Slather on a layer of colored slurry on top of each slice. | create a uniformly colored, thick, spreadable slurry. |
| | | Oxides: |
| | | For a strong blue use only 20 grams of cobalt oxide. |
| | Restack your slices to form a "sandwich" and let stand overnight (or a minimum of several hours) | For Black: 15 gms Cobalt Oxide 15 gms Copper Carbonate 15 gms Manganese Dioxide |
| | | SAFETY Many of the Mason stains and |
| | Wedge the stacked sandwich until the color is uniformly distributed through your clay. | metallic oxides are hazardous. Wear latex gloves when handling, mixing, wedging, and cleaning up. |
| | | When scraping the leather hard colored clays, use a mask. |
| | Final product should be a uniformly colored ball of clay. When not in use, wrap tightly in plastic to preserve moisture. | TIP Little scraps of your colored clays may be fashioned into colored clay pencils and used to draw/color your work later. |