

Vince Pitelka, 2015

Art 3520 - Advanced Clay Studio - Surface Design
Stages in Surface Development

There are so many ways of manipulating or developing ceramic surface at the various stages of clay from wet to glaze-fired, as indicated in the list below. Surface design options begin at the wet stage, and twenty possibilities are listed at that one stage. You'll see that some examples appear at multiple stages, but the point is that when you start to consider all the options available at each stage, compounded by those at other stages, the possibilities become truly infinite. Remember that you learn little by holding back and being hesitant, so be bold and adventurous in your experiments, both individually and in cumulative or layered effects. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by approaching this with a true spirit of adventure.

- **Wet Clay** - poke, push, prod, scrape, stretch, torch-and-stretch, smear, smooth, slash, groove, stamp, model, incise, impress, flute, facet, carve, profile rib, slip-paint, slip-texture, slip-resist, slip-trail, slip-marble, feather-comb.
- **Soft Leather-Hard** – carve, incise, impress, stamp, applique, sprig, flute, facet, engrave, add, subtract, slip-paint, slip-trail, slip-layer, feather-comb, slip-marble, slip-texture, slip-resist.
- **Medium-Leather-Hard** – carve, pierce, incise, sprig, applique, flute, facet with Surform, engrave, add, subtract, inlay colored clay, laminate colored clay, carved-sgraffito, mishima, wax-mishima, slip-paint, slip-resist.
- **Hard-Leather-Hard** – carve, incise, scrape, incised-sgraffito, slip-paint, slip-resist, wax-mishima, underglaze-paint.
- **Bone Dry** – carve, incise, scrape, pick, sand, sand-blast, underglaze-paint, terra sigillata, polish, burnish.
- **Bisque-fired** – sand, sandblast, grind, underglaze-paint, underglaze pencils, patinas, glazes, brush, dip, pour, layer, spray, sponge, spatter, speckle, glaze-resist, glaze-sgraffito.
- **Glaze-Firing Processes with Varying Surface Effects** – lowfire, midrange, highfire, oxidation, reduction, pitfire, bonfire, salt, soda, sagger, wood.
- **Ultra-Lowfire after Glaze-Firing** – enamels/china paints, lusters, decals.
- **After the Firing** – sandblast, sand, grind, chip, break, reassemble, paint, spackle, Bondo, putty, mixed-media.