

Vince Pitelka, 2016

Tenn. Tech University, Appalachian Center for Craft

wpitelka@tntech.edu

**Developing Ceramic Surface - Five-Day Workshop
Supplies and Facilities Supplied by Workshop Host**

Materials Provided On-Site by Host

- Buff or white cone-6 or cone-10 clay. Have on hand 50# per participant and 150# for instructor, plus some extra available. Don't skimp on the clay, because there are few things worse for a workshop than running out of clay.
- One gallon white vinegar.
- One gallon of joining slurry made in advance from the claybody. Cut 12# of clay into thin slices and dry completely. Break up the bone-dry clay into smaller pieces (not crushed) and immerse in water with several inches of water covering the clay and let sit overnight. The clay will slake down to slurry by itself. Next day, drain off all excess water, mix with drill impeller mixer or hand blender until completely smooth with no lumps, add one cup of vinegar, add water carefully, mixing frequently, until slurry will not pour if you tilt the bucket, but will if you shake it.
- 1/2 gallon each of brown, blue-green, dark blue, black, white, and tan colored slip using the STA white slip recipe on the syllabi/handouts page of my website.
- Two one-pint bottles each of black, brown, white, red, and blue Speedball underglaze.
- Oxide patinas - oxides in water suspension, one quart each of iron, rutile, copper, cobalt, and black oxide mix (equal parts cobalt carbonate, red iron oxide, and manganese dioxide). Add two heaping tablespoons to a little less than a quart of water and mix well. They settle quickly and will need to be stirred frequently during use.
- Two standard propane canisters as used on a hand-held propane torch. I will bring several torches.

Facilities, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies Provided On-Site by Host

Please note: the quality and content of this workshop depends on having all of these supplies. In some cases I may bring some of these things, so before purchasing extensive amounts of supplies, check with me to see what I am bringing with me.

- Digital projector, and appropriately dark room with large screen or white wall.
- Large sturdy work tables for handbuilding and decorating. Heavy plywood-covered tables are best, but sturdy 3x6' folding tables will work, with no more than four participants per 4x8' table and two per folding table.
- Several pottery wheels with standard bat pins for working with thrown form.
- 24" (plus or minus an inch or so) stool for instructor to use. This is important.
- Slab roller with at least four appropriate canvas sheets for rolling slabs (presenter and participants will transfer slabs onto their own canvas sheets).
- Heavy-duty rolling pin with 12" by 3" body and bearing-mounted handles (unless I bring my own). If you are buying one, go to amazon and enter "Medium Commercial Rolling Pin by Thorpe" in the search box. It isn't worth it to get a cheaper or smaller one.

- Several sturdy banding wheels (unless I bring my own) - CSI "lazy-susan" turntables are okay, but cast-iron or aluminum ball-bearing banding wheels are better.
- Bench grinder - **this** one from Grizzly Industrial is perfect, and will serve many purposes if you do not have a bench grinder.
- Small bench vise - **this** clamp-on vise from Grizzly Industrial is appropriate.
- Two clear plastic storage bins with lids (approx. 12x24x12" deep, for me to use as damp boxes).
- Six 36" by 24" (or whatever width fits the slab roller) sheets of unprimed 10 oz. canvas duck. "10-ounce" is a trade reference to the weight per yard for canvas sold in art supply stores. If you buy canvas from a fabric, sail or house painting supplier they might not that reference, but just get sturdy uncoated canvas while avoiding stuff that is excessively heavy – it should still be very flexible.
- At least six 24" by 36" pieces of 1/2" or 3/4" plywood for handling and flipping slabs (more if possible - if you have 24" by 24" pieces, they will work, but 24" by 36" are preferable).
- A good supply of throwing bats and ware boards.
- One plastic spray-bottle for vinegar water.
- A supply of transparent plastic sheeting to cover work - dry-cleaner bags or similar clear plastic is preferable.