

Glazing technique

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you apply it will be changed by the firing process mentioned under "procedure". Other materials needed are a clear glaze, a pencil, a common household sponge, and a design.

Design

Like color, your sgraffito design is also a matter of personal preference. Although books of design are available at most craft stores, you may copy yours from any source, or even create your own. If you select a design from a book or magazine, and the size of the design is in proportion to your container, you need not

worry about drawing ability as the design can be traced directly on your plate.

Procedure

Barbara has included the procedure for making pottery for those adventurous craftspersons who desire to do so, although it may take some investigation to find a source for the clay.

The best places to seek clay are in meadows, along streambeds, or a site where a roadbed is being constructed. Finding the clay involves scratching a couple of inches below the surface soil, keeping an eye out for colored veins. The veins may be yellow or blue, Barbara advises, but all Penn-

sylvania clay will fire red.

Having gathered your clay, clean it by removing any stones or sticks. Place the clean clay on a cloth-covered table and roll it about a quarter of an inch thick with a rolling pin as you would pie crust. Having selected a container the shape of which you wish to copy, turn it upside down on the table and drape your clay over it, pressing with your palms and fingers until it takes the shape of the container. Be sure to smooth the edges around the outside rim of the container you are making, and then let it sit until it holds its shape and can be removed and handled for

the application of the engobe.

If you purchased your greenware, the application of the engobe is the first step in sgraffito design. Directions for applying it will be provided on the label and will usually call for three applications.

After you have applied the engobe according to label directions, immediately sketch or trace your design with a pencil directly on your plate. Don't worry about mistakes at this stage, as the pencil markings will be erased in the firing process.

When your sketch is complete, take the container in one hand, and holding it in a comfortable position, begin scratching your design. With your sgraffito tool, follow your pencil lines scratching away the underglaze until



Barbara holds a finished plate. A plate is recommended for beginners because of ease in handling.

you see the original color of the container. When the design is complete, you can dab on touches of your second color or tone of engobe with a sponge, adding highlights according to your liking; then set aside to dry. Although drying time may vary with the weather, expect it to take a few days.

When the engobe is completely dry, add the clear glaze. Your plate is now ready for firing. A special kiln is required for the firing process, but most

ceramic shops will do the firing for a small fee, particularly if you have purchased your greenware there.

Although Barbara recommends that beginners start with a plate, sgraffito is adaptable to clay or ceramic items of varying shapes and sizes. After mastering the technique, you might go on, as Barbara has, to decorate flower pots, pitchers, cookie jars, and eggs.

Ethical Question

The debating team was discussing ethics and it was Palmer's turn to express his views. "I'll give you my view, gentlemen, with an example," he began. "Let's say a man came into my store to buy something, and after he left I discovered that he gave me a ten dollar bill instead of a five. Now, the ethical question is: Should I tell my partner?"

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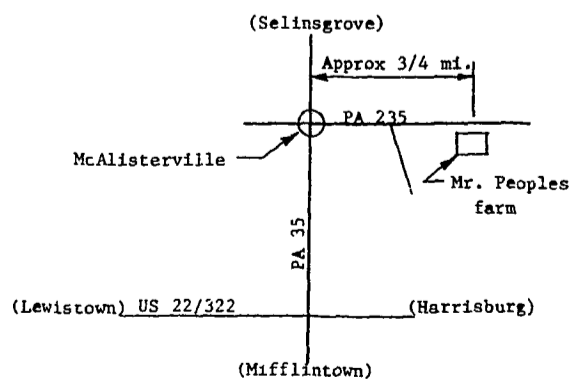


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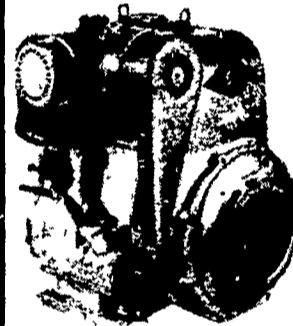
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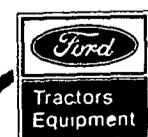
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