

Gare's Pottery Tattooing™

What is Pottery Tattooing?

Pottery tattooing is a technique that will transfer an image to your piece of pottery the same as you would apply a temporary tattoo to your skin. It's a way of transferring a design or image without carbon paper, tissue paper or other ways of applying a pattern that might be very time consuming. This is very quick and easy and allows you to do some more complicated images that would be hard to trace otherwise.

Instructions:

Step 1- Print your pattern or image on an inkjet printer (we recommend doing a test first by adding water to your printed pattern and if the image/design runs then your printer is compatible with this technique). If your pattern has letters or words, you will need to print a mirror image. To do this, go to printer properties, page layout, and click mirror image then print (printers may vary with settings).

Step 2- Apply at least 2 coats of any color glaze or underglaze. If you are using a glaze such as Surface Coats that don't get dipped, apply 3 coats or the recommended coverage of the glaze. Let the color dry to the touch.

Note: Lighter colors work best and this technique will not work directly on bisque.

Step 3- You will need to wet the surface very lightly. Do this by using a soft fan brush to apply just one thin coat of water (not as wet as you do using the paper technique). It needs to dry slightly, until the sheen goes away....about 20 seconds. You don't want too much water. Apply the pattern printed side down. Flatten out with your fingertips. Use a small square piece of foam for a squeegee and run it over the image and it will transfer the image to the glaze. It's the same kind of foam that the foam stamps are made of. I got a pack of ¼" thick foam door knob hangers at a craft shop and cut the top off, then cut into small squares and got about 60 little squeegee's. Lift off the paper and you will have your design or image on the pottery which will fire out in the kiln.

Step 4- Decorate using Fun Strokes.

Check out the Videos & Tips section of our web site and click on Pottery Tattooing to see a video of this technique.

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