

Arctic White Maiolica

Arctic White glaze is the original white glaze for maiolica (majolica) ware. It is a commercially produced white glaze and is used in the production of white ware, maiolica ware and for backgrounds for Florentine Design Glaze decoration or glaze on glaze application. This glaze was originally developed for use on terra cotta clays as it produces a beautiful opaque white surface and blocks out the color of the clay. Today this glaze is used to produce ware both from terra cotta clays and white clays. As the Arctic White glaze is produced for production work, it is available in a dipping formula (HC-300 Maiolica White) as well in its brushing formula of HC-0147 Arctic White.

The brushing formula is the most popular today in this industry. It is a very concentrated glaze and it is recommended to prepare your glaze before application. Shake and stir the Arctic White glaze thoroughly before use, check to make sure the consistency of the glaze is correct for the application you want to achieve. For general brushing and solid application the glaze should be the consistency of whole milk. For use in design work, leave the glaze as it is in the jar and apply one to two coats. When thinning the Arctic White just add a little water and remix, the glaze should flow on easily with smooth even strokes, if heavy brush marks appear in application the product usually needs to be thinned a bit more.

After the application of the Arctic White, if you want design work use either Bisque Stroke underglazes or Florentines design glazes for decoration.

Bisque Stroke underglaze application:

Condition the Bisque Stroke underglazes on a palette with water so the colors are a thin brushing consistency. Apply the decoration over the Arctic White glaze. Do not over apply the colors on top of the glaze as they will texture or blister if too heavy. When your decoration is completed use a soft fan brush and carefully apply one coat of HC-0001 Transparent, this is a commercial trick to help the underglaze colors from blistering if applied too heavy and to achieve a uniform finish to the surface.

Florentine Design Glaze Application:

Apply 1-2 or three coats of the Florentine Design Glaze to the design on top of the Arctic White. Use for solid application, shading and watercolor effects. Application of HC-0001 Transparent is not applied with this application of products.

When decoration is completed allow items to dry completely before firing.

FIRING:

Make sure your firing habits are up to date and follow these guidelines for perfection in your finished wares. Recommended firing temperature is cone 06. There are two popular ways to achieve the witness cone 06 temperatures. One method of firing is to program your kiln for a cone 06 firing, which will bring your kiln to temperature, shut off and then cool. The second method is to program you kiln for a cone 07 firing with a 20-25 minutes hold (this will vary with the volume of ware in the kiln), and this will produce a perfect witness cone 06.

You can drop the temperature of your firing if you hold the time at the end allowing the glazes more time in there molten state to smooth out and fit the ware surface. We recommend the second procedure for the very best finishes on glaze surface.