

Mixing China Paint

By Kitty Murks, TCDMEd.

Mixing china paint is not a difficult process, but it must be done properly to insure the best results. Improperly mixed paint is grainy and difficult to apply to the porcelain in a smooth coat. After firing, the painted area may feel rough to the touch and can contain tiny "splatters" or specks of concentrated color.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

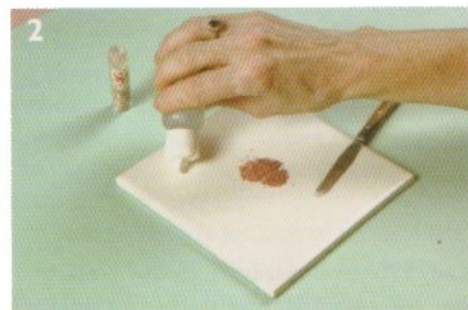
Glazed Tile
Palette Knife
China paint and medium of choice



1. Shake a small mound of dry china paint onto a Glazed Tile.



3. Use a Palette Knife to pick up a small amount of the medium.



2. To avoid getting too much medium in the paint, squeeze a puddle of medium in the corner of the tile, away from the mound of dry paint.



4. Mix the medium into the dry china paint using the flat part of the Palette Knife in a grinding, circular motion. In the beginning you might feel the paint grinding under the knife like little particles of sand.



5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until the dry paint is thoroughly mixed into the medium and you no longer feel the particles of paint grinding under the Palette Knife. It is better to add the medium in small amounts until the paint is the desired consistency. It should feel as smooth as melted butter. If the paint is more fluid than you want, you will need to add more dry powder.

When using Line Medium, mix the paint a little thicker than desired and let it sit for a few minutes before you start painting. Line Medium is an open medium that can become more fluid after it absorbs any moisture in the air. If the paint is still a little thick after it sits a few minutes, add a small amount of medium as needed.