

## Waterbase Technique™

Revised 2003

The Waterbase Technique is a china painting method that utilizes dry china paints, water based media and specially designed brushes to paint on porcelain. This technique was developed by Seeley's and has been the standard for painting porcelain dolls since 1990.

**1. CHINA PAINTS**

China paints will show their true color only after they have been fired in a kiln. The color is determined somewhat by the color of porcelain beneath, as all china paints are translucent to some extent. Always test-fire all color mixtures as the proportions of the individual colors might vary. "Gloss" colors are shiny after they are fired and may appear lighter than matt colors. The more flux that is added to a color, the lighter the resulting fired color. This is an optical illusion; it has to do with the light reflection. The color does not fire off.

Paints are packaged in unbreakable plastic vials with screw lids (net wt. 3.5-4.5g). The vial lid number is also the part number.

The china paints come in dry granular form. Colors are gloss, satin, matt, glitter or decorative. You may mix the paint colors to create your own variations in color and sheen. All of the china paints listed here are lead-free.

**To mix:**

Place a small amount of dry china paint on a glazed tile and add a few drops of the required medium at a time. (See medium information below.) Grind and mix the two together in a circular motion using a palette knife. Keep adding the medium until a smooth-textured mixture has been obtained, the consistency of hand cream.

**OVERALL WASH/TINT – on white bisque**

BISQ-TONE #1 CREAMY ROSE and

BISQ-TONE #1000 CLASSIC FRENCH

Creamy rose color particularly suitable for many French, as well as German dolls.

BISQ-TONE #2 RASPBERRY and

BISQ-TONE #2000 CLASSIC GERMAN

A strong rose color with a slight touch of blue. Often found in German dolls.

BISQ-TONE #3 APPLE BLOSSOM

Very pale rose for pale French and Lady dolls.

BISQ-TONE #4000 HONEY

This improved version of our Bisq-Tone 4a is a must for those ethnic washes with a golden honey tone. Wonderful on either classic or modern dolls, you're going to love the easy application and the beautiful color.

BISQ-TONE #6 PEACHBERRY

For large C Steiner, Jumeau and early Kestner dolls.

BISQ-TONE #7, PEACHES 'N CREAM

Soft peach, match to Kestner A.T. Perfect for German dolls and French Bru dolls.

BISQ-TONE #8000 OPULENT BROWN

A chocolate brown to use over Lady White or other flesh tones for ethnic results.

BISQ-TONE #9, CRANBERRY

A blue-toned red for late French dolls (Jumeau and Steiner).

**OVERALL WASH/TINT – on tinted bisque**

The following overall wash/tint colors are created to complement Seeley's porcelain slip colors. Use these colors to add depth and enhance the porcelain color. ("Glow" is the same term for overall wash or a tint to the porcelain.)

Body Glow (for French Bisque)

Cappuccino Glow (for French Chocolate)

Naturelle Glow (for Naturelle)

Aztec Glow (for Aztec Tan)

Malibu Glow (for California Sunrise)

Lotus Blossom Glow (for Lotus Blossom)

Miraja Glow (for India Gold)

Brown Velvet Glow (for Brown Velvet)

Angel Glow (for Pale Rose)

Georgia Peach Glow (for Georgia Peach)

Sheer Cinnamon (for Mohican, Aztec, Brown Velvet and French Chocolate)

**EYEBROW COLORS**

EYEBROW #1 TOFFEE

Light toffee color with slightest hint of olive green. Often seen on early A.T., Jumeau and Bru dolls.

EYEBROW #2 OLIVE BROWN

Medium greenish-brown color, very common on both German and French dolls.

EYEBROW #3 COPPER

Coppery brown with a hint of green. Suitable for many German dolls, especially character dolls. Also for some baby dolls' hair.

EYEBROW #4 DARK BROWN

Medium to dark brown color, often found in K\*R and Simon & Halbig dolls.

EYEBROW #7 ESPRESSO

For late French dolls with beautiful high color. Deep brown with no red and a hint of green.

EYEBROW #8 ANTIQUE MOCHA

Golden brown inspired by antique dolls. Use for brows on antique and modern dolls.

EYEBROW #9 GOLDEN BROWN

Reddish brown color for antique brows and painted baby hair. Beautiful on modern dolls.

#### EYEBROW #10 FINISHING BROWN

A soft rich brown that is great for painting dark eyebrows and making perfect underbrows. Darker than Eyebrow #3 Copper and less red than Rich Henna Brown, this is a true brown for medium brown brows. Use on classic and modern dolls.

#### RICH HENNA BROWN

Strong reddish-brown for rustier low-gloss brows – A Marque, Mein Liebling. For wash over French Chocolate porcelain and over Lady White porcelain.

#### CHESTNUT

Reddish brown for brows and lashes for modern dolls.

#### SMOKY TOPAZ

Deep dark brown that will hold color in fine strokes.

#### HAIR COLORS

##### RUSSET

Reddish-brown with khaki overtones. For dome-headed baby dolls such as Dream Baby, Averill Baby and many others. Also for skin tone shading color on modern children and babies.

##### GOLDEN BROWN

Reddish brown color for antique brows and painted baby hair. Beautiful on modern dolls.

##### GOLDEN BLONDE

A rich straw color for hair, clothes, shoes and many other details. Perfect match to blond found on many antique parian dolls.

#### LIP COLORS

##### ROSE RED

Rose color suitable for earlier French, as well as some German dolls.

##### SATIN YELLOW RED

Light orange-red, often found in German dolls, as well as some late French dolls.

##### ROSEWATER

Rose color with bluish tone for modern dolls, especially face and body shading. Also for cheeks and lips.

##### WHISPERING ROSE

Natural lip color on modern dolls. Doubles as overall wash and blush.

##### MELONBERRY KISS

Wonderful lip color for Caucasian skin colors and with French Bisque porcelain.

##### MIRAJA KISS

An opulent shade of red for lips. Use with other Miraja colors for a complete look.

##### MULBERRY KISS

A rich burgundy tone made for lips on French Chocolate porcelain. Use with Cappuccino Glow, the overall wash color.

##### ANTIQUÉ POMPADOUR

A deep red for ruddy lips.

##### PETAL PINK

New soft pink color for lips on your babies and child dolls.

#### CHEEK COLORS

##### CHEEK BLUSH

Deep red-rose color, suitable for all dolls. Density of color is governed by density of application. For a darker shade, use Ruby Cheek blush.

##### RUBY CHEEK BLUSH

Ruddy rose/pink/bluish color that is very versatile for antique and modern dolls.

##### ROSY RED CHEEK BLUSH

Deep red that does not fade after firing. More rosy in color than Ruby Cheek Blush, but with same staying power.

##### MIRAJA CHEEK

Our darkest cheek blush, for a rich, cinnamon blush over India Gold or other dark porcelains. Use with the other three Miraja colors for a complete look.

##### SANGRIA BLUSH

Red-violet found in decorative painting on fine China and Parians. Also for flowers, jewelry, ribbons, bows, details on all-bisque dolls.

#### LID BLUSH COLORS

##### DUSKY LILAC

Pale lilac rose with grey overtones often found in French dolls: Long Face Jumeau, Stobe and some Bru dolls. Matt color.

##### LAVENDER MIST

Lavender shade with a touch of grey. Shadow blush for very early French dolls. Multiple applications and firings produce opaque coverage for decorative painting.

#### EYE COLORS

##### TEAL BLUE

Soft gray teal color for K\*R and other German dolls. Mix with Celeste Blue for a brighter blue tone or add a few grains of black for a touch of gray.

##### SLATE BLUE

Intense gray-blue with a hint of green. Iris color on modern dolls. Light in vial, yet fires to a steely blue.

##### SATIN BLACK and

##### ONYX BLACK

Use for eyelashes, pupils and for mixing with brow and eye colors. Onyx Black is a more intense black.

##### EYELASH BROWN

Subtle and strong brown china paint color for eyelashes on modern dolls.

##### INDIGO

Navy blue with a touch of purple. Striking as an accent for painted eyes for Heubachs and modern dolls.

##### MANICURE WHITE

For eye highlights on any painted eye doll and for painting nails on fingers.

##### ADRIATIC BLUE

Ocean blue for medium to deep blue eyes.

## MIDNIGHT BLUE

A deep, dark blue for the shading and rimming of blue eyes painted in the Dimensional Doll Painting technique, as well as dramatic eye shadow for modern lady dolls. This color is also a perfect match to the navy blue found on decorative details of some antique Parian dolls.

## TIGER EYE

Give your doll's eyes a natural sparkle and more life with this new eye color. Use as an accent color to create the gold glints in blue and green painted eyes.

## DARK AVOCADO

Bright green with a touch of yellow

## SHIMMERING MOSS

Deep, earthy green for dark rims around the iris and for shading. Also for use on decorative pieces.

## CONTOUR COLORS

### PEARL GRAY

Creamy gray used to emphasize sculpture contours. Apply around nose, ears, under lips, over/around eyes to give depth and dimension. Mainly used on adult dolls.

### SHADING GRAY

A soft, wispy gray to complement your palette of colors used for Dimensional Doll Painting: painting eyes, eye shadow and body contouring. Blends well over flesh tones, especially between fingers and toes.

### PINK FAWN SHADOW

Specially developed shading color, soft brown with pink overtones. For subtle color around and in eyes, by nose, ears, arms and legs.

### FRENCH CHOCOLATE SHADE

Delicate brown blended to achieve a natural shading deep in the contours of pieces cast in French Chocolate porcelain. Create the illusion of depth where there is none.

### ANTIQUERUBY

This is a deep, iron-colored ruby, softened with a hint of blue. It is perfect for contouring and accents. Try using it for lips and cheeks alone, or mixed with your favorite color. Antique Ruby stands on its own as a beautiful color for figurines and jewelry. If you liked our Violet of Iron, you will love this color.

### DARK CHERRY

New deep contour color for lips to complement the use of Petal Pink.

### APRICOT SHIMMER

Overall tint, lip and contour shading color. This color adds a natural hint of warmth to the following porcelain slip colors: California Sunrise, Aztec Tan and Naturelle.

## SPECIAL ITEMS

### FLUX

A white powder which adds extra gloss to china paints and helps fuse the color to the porcelain when fired. Flux is clear. Flux works best if you fire it on first and then fire the color on top of it. Does not work as well if flux is fired on top of a color. Flux needs to go underneath (or mixed in) a paint, not on top. If you apply a coat of flux over an already fired color, it will wash out color. Fired on flux alone is recommended as a base for gold. Use on small areas – not recommended to use as the gloss base for a complete china doll head)

## MATTER

A white powder which reduces gloss in china paint. Used normally in the proportion of 1 part matter to 5 parts china paint. Never use in excess of 1 part matter to 3 parts china paint.

## ROCHARD PASTE

This is a white powder that is mixed to a very thick consistency with medium. Used with a double ball stylus, creates a raised effect on porcelain after firing. Use under Liquid Bright Gold for the Rochard Technique for painting antique dolls and for other figurines anywhere you would like a raised look. Comes as a gloss. Complete instructions on how to use this paint can be found in Seeley's Decorative Arts kit or on [www.seeleys.com](http://www.seeleys.com).

## DECORATOR COLORS

There is a complete line of china paint colors for painting porcelain figurines, jewelry, china and parian dolls, flowers, all-bisque dolls, half dolls, clowns and other decorative items. They are formulated to apply over glaze, but also can be painted on un-glazed bisque. Best mixed with Ultra Fine Line Medium and fired to witness cone 018 or higher. These paints mix, apply and fire the same as the doll colors listed here. Colors can be seen on [www.seeleys.com](http://www.seeleys.com) or request color brochure.

## 2. MEDIA

### LINE MEDIUM (1910)

A colorless, odorless, non-toxic and non-corrosive, water-based medium that is non-drying. It dissipates through evaporation at a very low temperature, unlike oils which carbonize or burn off at a fairly high temperature, producing fumes. Use for all fine line work such as eyelashes, brows, accent lines and stoked baby hair and for overall washes when humidity is very low. May use in conjunction with Anti-blotch for lips, underbrows and painted eyes.

### AREA MEDIUM (1912)

This medium is more liquid and thinner than Line Medium and will partially dry off in time. It is colorless, odorless, non-corrosive and non-toxic with a low temperature evaporation point. It is used wherever color is dry-stippled, blotted or polished, as in the application of overall wash, cheek blush, lid blush and some baby hair. It can also be used for blotted lips or dry-stippled shadow brows.

### ULTRA FINE LINE MEDIUM (1914)

All-purpose medium, tinted yellow for easy identification. Very silky to the touch. Use to paint delicate lines. Does not need to be mixed with Anti Blotch. Use on eyelashes, eyebrows and some larger areas. Can also be used for overall washes.

### ANTI-BLOTCH (1913)

Optional additive for Line or Area Medium. Slightly brownish, waterbased liquid which is added to Line medium to minimize blotching. Will completely dry off in time. Used mainly for eyebrows, lips and painted eyes. Can be reconstituted with water.

To mix a fraction of a drop of Anti-Blotch into paint: Place 1 drop of Anti-blotch on side of tile. Pick up required amount by dipping the tip of the Pallet Knife lightly into the Anti-blotch. Blend thoroughly into the paint mixture.

## **WATER**

Water is the essential ingredient upon which the entire Waterbase Technique is built. It is used to further dilute the paint during the painting process. Always dip your brushes in water before using. Shake or blot out excess moisture with a Lint Free Wiper (#WIPER).

If you need to dilute the paint, use a brush dipped in water without blotting. Lightly swivel the brush in the paint mixture until the desired consistency is achieved. Too much water dries the paint too fast; too little water makes it difficult to paint smoothly. Water is also used to clean the brushes. They do not normally need any other cleaning. All paint rinses out. Water is used to remove unwanted paint from the doll. It is essential to have a cup with clean water close at hand at all times.

## **3. BRUSHES**

Every brush has a multitude of uses. Have fun with your brushes. Don't be afraid to experiment to see how a brush works on a tile or sample head or body part. You can use these brushes not only for china painting dolls, but also for china painting various decorative porcelain pieces with leaves, flowers, fruits and other things. Each brush will have a different feel. There are various size handles, different shapes and lengths of bristles, quality differences and various materials for bristles (animal hair, synthetic, etc.). All of these variables will keep you busy while you find out which brush is best suited for your style. The following brushes are just a sample of some of the brushes available for the most basic uses.

### **MOPS**

China Mop #5 (SBR23)

Small, puffy, short mop for overall wash, cheek blush on medium and smaller sized heads. Light blending allows for an even coverage and a softer look at temples and forehead. Medium-gray tip on handle.

China Mop #8 (SBR21A)

Large, soft brush for blending overall wash. Ideal for smoothing and polishing cheek color on larger dolls. Natural squirrel-hair bristles. Black tip on handle.

Complexion Brushes (SBR79, 80 and 81)

Apply overall tint, cheeks and hair on all dolls. Bristles are firmly packed. Blend of synthetic and natural capra hair, allowing them to perform both as absorbent mops and resilient pouncers. Three sizes.

Petite Mop (SBR70)

Tiny mop for overall washes and cheeks on small dolls, all-bisque dolls, figurines or Petites. Natural bristles, pink handle.

Pro Mop (SBR43)

Soft mop with natural hair bristles for blending overall washes and cheeks on small to medium size dolls.

### **LINERS**

Artist Gold Ultra Lash and Best Brow (SBR46 and 47)

State-of-the-art technology allows the bristles to mimic the absorbency of natural hair with the benefits of synthetic fiber. Multiple strokes can be painted with just one loading of the brush. Use the Ultra Lash (SBR46) for eyelashes on any size doll and eyebrows on small dolls. The Best Brow (SBR47) is for eyebrows on any size doll and eyelashes on large dolls. Bronze colored handles with a gold tip.

Super Brow (SBR27)

Extra long, fine bristles. Especially developed for larger and longer brows, underbrows, and soft feathering of brows on early French dolls. Kazan squirrel hair bristles. Purple tip on handle.

Eyebrow Brush #1 (SBR17)

For small to medium eyebrows, especially French. Brush strokes will flow evenly as this natural brush does not need to be reloaded frequently. Pure Kazan squirrel hair bristles, soft and thin. Red tip on handle.

Eyebrow Liner #2 (SBR18)

For sharp, thin brow lines. Useful for light-colored feathering found on many modern dolls. Also works well for tapered long lashes on large dolls. Synthetic bristles. Green tip on handle.

Eyelash Liner #1 (SBR20)

For tapered lashes and painting with an even load, place and pull rhythm. Good for lip accents and light accents on hands and feet. Synthetic bristles. Blue tip on handle.

Modern Liner (SBR44)

Synthetic liner perfect for eyelashes and the fine line around the iris. On small dolls, use for pupils and upper and lower lash lines, and for the tear duct line along the lower lash line. Also use for slight shadow under the eyelid on larger dolls.

### **DETAIL BRUSHES**

Accent Liner (SBR22)

For well-curved accent lines and even lashes. Excellent for lid lines, finger nail outlines, and soft accents on fingers, hands, knees and feet. Also good for tiny brows on small, medium and larger dolls. Superfine Kazan squirrel hair bristles. Orange tip on handle.

X-Fine Detail (SBR10A)

Extra short, bristle. Small and manageable; ideal for fine dark line that rims the iris and upper and lower lash lines. Use also for fine line running from tear ducts along lower lash line, and general painting on small dolls, and for eye highlights. Use for light shadow in sclera just under eyelid. Red Sable bristles.

Petite Lip Brush (SBR71)

Excellent for painting lips and eyes on small dolls and figurines because of the tiny size and finely tapered tip. The flexibility of the hair also makes it a good brush for painting decorative details such as flowers and leaves. Sable bristles, pink handle.

### **AREA BRUSHES**

Medium Area Brush (SBR28)

For good overall coverage in applying and smoothing paint in small and mid-sized areas such as lips or underbrows. Use to apply shadow above the eyes and to color iris. For pupils, eye dots and nose dots on larger dolls. Synthetic bristles. Maroon tip on handle.

Large Area Brush (SBR29)

Loads well, so large areas are covered with fewer strokes. For spot application such as shoes on small dolls or large painted areas on figurines and other decorative pieces. Synthetic bristles. Pink tip on handle.

#### Lip Brush #1 (SBR19)

Fine point for precise and smooth application of lips from edge to edge. Good coverage on rounded areas. Also for nose dots, eye dots and shading. When slightly moistened, works well for removing unwanted color from painted eyes. Synthetic bristles. Yellow tip on handle.

#### Modern Lip Brush (SBR30A)

Medium size synthetic hair brush ideal for applying lip color to all dolls. Good for dry shaping lips and for shaping and cleaning painted eyes. Use to apply shadow above the eye and to color the iris and pupil on small to medium dolls. Also for nose dots, shoes, socks, bows, ribbons and other clothing on All-bisque dolls.

#### Artist Gold Lip Definer (SBR48)

The tips of the synthetic bristles are acid-etched to make the application and blending of paint on lips, underbrows and other larger areas easier and faster. Bronze colored handle with a gold tip.

### SHADERS/BLENDERS/STIPLERS

#### Contour Brush (SBR82, 83 and 84)

Natural camel hair brushes, which are a combination filbert and mop. For blending, shading or contouring paint on doll faces or body parts. Use the smaller brushes to apply paint and accomplish the initial blending and the larger size to over-blend for the final, perfect result. Three sizes.

#### Ultimate Shader (SBR50, 51 and 52)

Tapered square shaders used for applying, blending and dry brushing china paint on dolls and decorative porcelain pieces of all shapes and sizes. Made of Kolinsky sable, which is the finest quality natural hair available,<sup>2</sup> the brushes are extremely soft and absorbent, thus reducing streaking in the paint. The tips of the brushes are finely chiseled, giving you much more control of the placement of the paint and allowing you to reach into even the tiniest crevices. When used moist, the Ultimate Shaders are also excellent for cleaning up painting mistakes. Three sizes.

#### Small and Medium Square Shader (SBR01A and SBR02A)

Red sable brushes that will hold good reserve of paint yet maintain straight, sharp edge. Use to get color into mouth and body crevices and to blend out color so there is not a definite line where color begins and ends. Use to soften edges of lip shading, lid shadow, and brows on babies. Also for smoothing paint on lips, hair and other areas.

#### Angular Shader (SBR31A)

Angled synthetic brush with bristles formed in even, angled edge. Ideal for smoothing lips and shading. Moves color off high spots on upper and lower lips and toward the middle parting line. Use same method for painting eyes on large dolls.

#### Petite Shader (SBR72)

Tiny sable square shader for blending and shading paint on the eyes, lips and other areas of smaller dolls. Pink handle.

#### Small and Medium Filbert (SBR39A and SBR32A)

Brush with rounded corners. Ideal for blending colors so there is not a definite line where color begins and ends. Blend color on face: eyelid shadows, around nose, creases above lips and in chin and ears. Use to blend and shade colors on the body—back of hands, fingers, top of feet, toes, ankles, knees, elbows, buttocks, back, breasts and tummy. Red Sable bristles.

#### Small and Medium Stippler (SBR11A and 12A)

Use for pouncing color on hair, eyelids or other areas, giving an even, light application. Build up color. Also use to blend baby hair for a soft look. Ox Ear bristles.

#### Multipurpose Blender (SBR24, 105 and 106)

These versatile white Taklon brushes can be used for painting, cleaning, and staining. Purchase in a kit or separately. Use these brushes to apply media and overall washes. These durable brushes hold their shape, even after repeated use. Use to smooth soft-fired greenware in Dust Free Cleaning Technique. The soft bristles will not scratch the greenware, and the smaller sizes are excellent for hard-to-clean areas such as the mouth, nose, ears and eyes. A light over blending of paint with these brushes eliminates unsightly brush strokes. Complete painting guide for these brushes comes in three-brush kit.

### SPECIALTY BRUSHES

#### Small and Large Hair Brush (SBR85 and 86)

Use for dolls with dome heads and molded hair. For applying uneven, well-placed combed hair strokes, especially for Baby, German and all-bisque dolls. Synthetic bristles.

#### Clean Up Brush (SBR49)

Great new brush for cleaning up your china painting mistakes. Use for removing or shortening single eyelash and eyebrow strokes. Redefine lips and eyebrow shapes. Moisten in water, blot on lint free towel. Has a very fine tip to reach in for detailed clean up. Brush is made of absorbent, superior quality sable.

#### PROLINE and MINI PROLINE BRUSH (BR02 – 08)

Short, compact bristles with a dome shaped top. A defined edge to paint precise lips, underbrows and eyes. Use for blue eyes, green eyes, brown brows and red lips. Handles may have a color-coded tip. Mini ProLine brushes are a smaller version of the ProLine. Paint lips, eyes, and contours quickly and easily on smaller dolls. The brushes for every beginner.

## 4. PAINTING GUIDE

### General Information

All utensils used in the Waterbase Technique must be completely devoid of any traces of oil or grease. Clean old brushes or tiles with "Fantastic" spray cleaner and rinse thoroughly in warm water. Use a Palette Knife (ST17) and a Glazed Tile (GT6) to work the dry paint with the medium. Mix thoroughly. Always dip brushes in water to season before using (except mops, shaders, filbert and contour brushes that you will use dry). Shake or blot out excess moisture with Lint Free Towel (WIPER).

### OVERALL WASH

Mix dry china paint with Area, Line (low humidity conditions) or Ultra Fine Line Medium to a smooth creamy paste. Apply with Super Doll Sponge (a fine-textured sponge) to well-fired porcelain that has been lightly sanded. Use a circular wiping motion to apply the paint. Use the sponge with enough pressure to spread the paint without wiping the color off. At this stage do not attempt to smooth color totally.

Use the sponge to stipple lightly where there is an accumulation of paint, usually around the mouth, nose, eyes and ears. This will lift out much of the excess paint.

Now take a clean dry China Mop #8 or Complexion Brush and hold it by the base of the hairs with your middle finger, forefinger and thumb. This will stiffen the brush temporarily so that you can finish stippling and blending the excess paint in the crevices.

Now release the hairs and finish polishing and pouncing until the overall wash is completely smooth, turning the piece in all directions as you go. This "cross polishing" is important to achieving a smooth wash. If you use the China Mop #8 you will use a back and forth polishing motion of the brush. With the Complexion Brush you will be using a more up and down pouncing motion.

Any imperfections in the bisque will show progressively more as the medium starts to dry up. Do not be tempted to keep working on the wash too long. Once the medium starts drying out the appearance of the wash will not improve. If it looked even and smooth while the medium was still apparent, then the fired result will be fine. **Do not overwork the paint.**

### OVERALL TINT

On modern dolls cast in colored porcelain the lightest hint of color, or an overall "tint", works better than a heavier overall wash.

To prepare bisque sand it with a #220 Grit Scrubber (DSCRUB). A toothbrush works well for sanding in the mouth and around the ears.

Mix paint with Area Medium (1912) or Ultra Fine Line Medium (1914) to a very light, oily consistency. The color should drip off the Palette Knife. Do not apply medium to the bisque first. If you apply the paint mixture with a Flat White Taklon Brush (SBR24A) you can easily get it into all the crevices. This brush is a sturdy synthetic and can withstand the firm rubbing back and forth across the porcelain. It will not wear down or lose its shape.

Wipe the color away with a Lint-free Towel (WIPER). Do not worry that you are removing too much color. Your objective is to achieve a glow or tint, not to change the color of the porcelain.

Pounce and blend the color until it is smooth with a Complexion Brush. Next, lightly "over blend", or polish, with a China Mop. The little bit of paint left in the crevices will become the foundation for the contouring you will apply in subsequent firings. Do not over work the paint. You want a satiny look.

### CHEEKS

There are two methods for applying cheek color. One method uses a "Cheek Blush Cake" or a blush pac. The other method uses a blushing jar.

Seeley's sells a premixed blush pac for Cheek Blush and Ruby Cheek Blush. Or, you can make your own "cake", which will last indefinitely.

Mixing the blush cake: Mix 1/3 of the dry cheek color of your choice with Line Medium to a very stiff paste. Now add the remaining 2/3 of china paint and enough water to comfortably combine all ingredients to a smooth past. Transfer the paste to any small, flat container, preferably with a lid. Place the freshly made blush cake in a dry, warm place until the water evaporates. The resulting cake should be quite firm,

similar in consistency to shoe polish. If it is still much too wet, add more dry china paint and water, repeating the procedure. Blush cakes mature and improve over time. Use at least two vials of china paint to make this blush cake, it saves time and effort. Note: If your cake dries too much, rub a little Line Medium over the surface. Place the cake into a small bag overnight to recondition.

### Applying the cheek color:

Apply a light even coverage of Area, Line (low humidity conditions) or Ultra Fine Line Medium to the area being blushed with a Multipurpose Blender or a Super Doll Sponge. Extending the medium beyond the areas to be blushed will insure well-blended blush edges. Remove any excess medium with a dry sponge. The cheek area should look satiny, not wet.

Application Method #1: Rub a Super Doll Sponge or a Complexion Brush across the blush cake and pounce a circle of color onto the center of the cheek. This method will result in a slightly more intense cheek color.

Application Method #2: For a soft, subtle cheek color use the Complexion Brush and the dry china paint you have placed on the sponge in a Powder Jar (CONBJ). Lightly pounce the Complexion Brush in the dry cheek color, then dust off any excess dry paint particles by pouncing the brush on your tile or a Lint Free Towel. Pounce the cheek color onto the center of the cheek. This method allows you to deepen the cheek color in several firings.

Pounce the Complexion Brush in widening circles around the edge of the paint you applied in the center of the cheek, gradually blending the color outward. Keep the deepest color on the fullest part of the cheek and do not let the color travel too far toward eyes, mouth and nose.

Use a dry China Mop in a soft, sweeping motion toward the center of the cheek to "over blend" or finish polishing. If any bristles come off your brush and stick to the cheek, these will fire off in your kiln. Do not attempt to blow off the bristles as this can cause spotting of the paint when small drops of saliva hit the bisque.

**Paint looks chalky and color will not move?** Porcelain is too dry. The color is overworked. Apply a few drops of medium to a Super Doll Sponge and remove existing color from porcelain. Do not add extra medium. Re-apply cheek color.

**Paint collects in patches and will not adhere to porcelain?** Too much medium. Remove excess with a dry doll sponge. Re-apply cheek color.

### CONTOURING

Mix contour color with Ultra Fine Line Medium. For the darker shading in the deepest crevices Pink Fawn Shadow (84G) or Shading Gray (146G) mixed with a darker brown are excellent choices. For lighter, pinker shadows use a thicker, creamier mixture of the overall tint color, either alone or mixed with Shading Gray (146G). For example, the deeper recesses of the nose would be shaded with the darker color mixture and the less recessed areas inside the nose would be shaded with the tint mixture.

When creating contours and shading around the eyes mix

equal parts of the darker shading and the tint mixture.

Prepare the bisque by applying Area Medium to the eyelid crease and in the crevices around the nose, mouth and ears. Remove excess medium with a Super Doll Sponge.

Use a Modern Lash to apply contour color to the conditioned area.

Blend color with the Small or Mini Contour Brush.

“Over blend” or polish with the Large Contour Brush. Once paint is well blended the deepest density of color should be confined to the recessed areas, fading lighter toward the less recessed areas. Keep in mind that you want the shading to give depth to the doll’s face and look natural. If it looks like the doll is wearing makeup or has “dirt” in the crevices you have been a little heavy on the color.

### **EYELID BLUSH**

Process exactly as described for Contouring. Apply and blend paint with a ProLine Brush or Small Stippler. Over Blend with a Small or Min Contour Brush.

### **EYELASHES**

Mix dry china paint to a smooth creamy mixture with Line or Ultra Fine Line Medium. Paint eyelashes with Eyelash Liner #1, Ultra Lash Brush or Modern Lash. For painting very fine lines you may trim some of the bristles from the brush by clipping the hairs at the base of the ferrule with very sharp, pointed scissors.

When using Eyelash Liner #1 or Modern Lash reload brush for each stroke for even color density. With Ultra Lash Brush multiple strokes can be painted with one “loading”. When you begin painting, get yourself into a rhythm. To do this say to yourself: “Press...Pull...Lift”, “Press...Pull...Lift...” etc. If paint drags, the mixture is too dry. All a little more medium. If paint looks too gray and light, add more china paint, as there is too much medium. If paint “beads” on porcelain, this is a sign of grease on the porcelain. Clean paint off. Rub a little saliva or alcohol over the problem spot and the beading with disappear instantly. Re-paint lashes.

### **EYERIM**

Use the same paint mix as for eyelashes. Paint by rubbing the base of the loaded lash brush along the rim edge.

### **EYEBROWS**

One-stroke brows or underbrows: Mix dry china paint with Line or Ultra Fine Line medium to a smooth, light consistency. Paint with a moistened Lip brush, Medium Area Brush, Lip Definer or Super brow.

Fine hair-like strokes: Mix paint with Line or Ultra Fine Line Medium and use a similar technique as is used for eyelashes. Rubbing a fine film of medium over the brow area first will help strokes glide on more smoothly. Before painting, consider the angle at which you are holding the doll’s head. As you move along the eyebrow area, begin turning the head to help the strokes lie down. Hair-like strokes for eyebrows should have a fine beginning, a slightly heavier center and a fine ending. To do this say to yourself “Touch . . . Press . . . Lift”, “Touch . . . Press . . . Lift”. Use a Eyebrow #1 for softly feathered brows. Use Eyebrow #2 or Best Brow for sharply defined lines.

HINT: As you begin turning the head, try to keep the

doll’s ear in focus. This will help guide the strokes towards the ear and prevent the strokes from pointing up into the forehead.

### **LIPS**

The type medium and brush you use will depend upon the size of the doll and the method of application.

Method #1: Mix paint with Line Medium to a smooth, light consistency. Use a moistened Petite Lip Brush, Modern Lip Brush, Lip Brush, Medium Area Brush or Lip Definer to apply a smooth light coat of paint over the entire lip area. Long strokes with slight pressure exerted to flatten the brush hairs against the porcelain will give best results. In the next firing use the same brush to add additional color to areas where shading is needed. To achieve a more intense shading color a darker shade of china paint can be added to the first lip color mixture. The edges of the shaded areas can be blended with a dry Angular Shader, Ultimate Shader/2 or Petite Shader. In a third firing add more shading, if needed, and apply any accent lines with the tip of a moistened Accent Liner, X-fine Detail Brush, Eyelash Liner #1, Modern Lash or Ultra Lash Brush.

Method #2: Used more often with modern dolls. Mix paint with Area Medium to a creamy consistency. Use a Petite Lip Brush, Modern Lip Brush, Lip Brush, Medium Area Brush or Lip Definer to apply a smooth coat of paint over entire lip area. Use a dry Angular Shader, Ultimate Shader/2 or Petite Shader to blend and smooth paint by pulling color toward center of mouth. As the paint starts to dry the paint is easier to blend. In the next firing add more color to the center of the mouth and any other areas to be shaded darker. Apply additional shading in subsequent firings.

### **NOSE DOTS**

Method #1: Paint a solid light coat of color covering nostril area with tip of moistened Lip Brush, Medium Area Brush, Modern Lip Brush or Lip Definer. Color mix usually same as first coat of shaded lips. If shaded nose dots are required use the Lip Brush, Medium Area Brush, Modern Lip Brush, Lip Definer or Petite Lip Brush to apply a smaller, slightly darker inner nosedot in the next firing using the shading color from the lips with Lip Brush.

Method #2: Used more often with modern dolls. Use same technique as in contouring.

### **PAINTED HAIR**

1<sup>st</sup> firing: Mix paint with Area Medium or Ultra Fine Line Medium to a fairly dense mixture. Use a moistened Super Doll Sponge to apply color starting at the crown. Stipple and pat the color gently, starting at the crown. For the “sprayed on” look on baby dolls blend and fade the color towards the hair line. Smooth with Large China Mop #8.

2<sup>nd</sup> firing (optional): Use a Hair Brush to create individual hair-like strokes.

Mix the paint with Ultra Fine Line Medium to a fluid consistency, similar to that for painting eyelashes. If the paint is mixed too thin, you will be able to paint hair strokes but they will be very faint and tend to fuzz out and flow together.

Condition the head with Ultra Fine Line Medium applied with a Super Doll Sponge.

Dip the Hair Brush into water. Dab off excess water

on the edge of the water container. Pull the Hair Brush through the paint. The small amount of water you add will thin the paint enough for you to paint finer strokes. It will evaporate fairly quickly, preventing the paint from having time to fuzz out like it would if mixed too thin with medium. Continue to swirl and work color through the brush on the tile until you achieve the color density that you want on the head. The paint consistency should be very thin, liquid and translucent.

Apply light pressure on the tip of the Hair Brush as you place it onto the head, beginning at the crown. Lighten the pressure on the brush as you move it forward toward the hairline. If the paint does not flow onto the porcelain it is too thick. Pull the strokes in the natural direction that hair would grow. The strokes will look more natural if they are not uniform in size and spacing. Stagger the layers so that you have a natural hairline, not a "helmet" look.

For a more dimensional effect on modern dolls layer with different colors of paint in separate firings. Begin with darker colors and highlight with red and blonde tones. Dimension can also be achieved by using both the Small and Large Hair Brushes in different firings. For baby dolls with fine hair, one application is enough. For older or boy dolls, apply the hair strokes in two or more firings instead of trying to apply it all in one firing. Lightly sand between coats with a piece of craft tulle. Use a Doll Caddy to fire dome heads upright.

Over working the paint or applying too many strokes will result in solid looking hair rather than individual hair-like strokes. If this happens, remove the paint with a damp Super Doll Sponge, allow the area to dry and repaint.

#### **PAINTED EYES**

For instructions for painting eyes on modern dolls in the Dimensional Doll Painting (DDP) technique, please refer to the General Instructions for DDP painting (#GIM1). Below please find basic eye painting instructions for reproductions of antiques.

##### **1<sup>st</sup> firing:**

**Iris:** Mix iris color with Line Medium to a creamy consistency. Paint entire pupil and iris area with a moistened Lip brush, Medium Area Brush, Lip Definer or Petite Lip Brush. Shade a little where needed by pulling excess paint toward the areas to be shaded.

**Eyelid Line:** Mix color with Line Medium to a light consistency. Paint line underneath upper eyelid with a trimmed Accent Liner, Eyelash Liner #1 or Ultra Lash Brush.

**Upper Eyelid Crease:** Mix color with Line Medium to a light consistency. Paint pink or red line in the crease of upper eyelid with trimmed Accent Liner, Eyelash Liner #1 or Ultra Lash Brush.

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> firing:**

**Pupil:** Mix color with Line Medium to creamy consistency. Paint pupil with tip of Lip brush, Medium Area Brush, Lip Definer or Petite Lip Brush. Rinse brush in water.

**Iris Shading:** Paint iris shading as required using remaining iris color and tip of Lip Brush, Medium Area Brush, Lip Definer or Petite Lip Brush. Blend with Petite Shader. If needed for extra depth blend a little color over previously fired iris area.

Dry off in kiln (low/medium) or oven (200-250°F) until all traces of medium have disappeared. Paint will look very pale

and chalky.

**Highlight:** Mix Manicure White or Rochard Paste with Line Medium to a creamy consistency. Use the tip of a round toothpick to apply a dot of color. As the highlight paint is applied, some of the moisture is absorbed by the surrounding paint. Ignore this, as it will not affect the fired result at all.

#### **5. CHINA PAINT FIRING GUIDE**

**Kiln Sitter Operation:** All china paints fire to a witness cone 018 (junior cone 017 in sitter). Set your kiln on MEDIUM for 15 minutes - 1 hour with peepholes open. Turn the temperature up to HIGH until kiln shuts off automatically. Be sure to use witness cones to check firing.

**Controller Operation:** Set your controller to increase in temperature at a rate of 1000°F (538°C) per hour until 1350°F - 1425°F (732°C - 788°C). Leave peep holes open until shut off. Be sure to use witness cones to check firing.

If china paint rubs off, fire one cone hotter (+40°F or 5°C)  
If china paint is too glossy, fire one cone cooler (-40°F or 5°C)

The following items are available in kit form:

Beginner's Doll Kit (BKIT2), Four Dolls for Fun Paint Kit (KTCP4FUN), Four Dolls for Fun Brush and Tool Kit (KTBR4FUN), Baby Collection China Paint Kit (KTCPBABY), Ethnic Collection China Paint Kit (KTCPEETHN), European Collection China Paint Kit (KTCPEURO)

China paints, media, brushes, sponges, and kits as well as molds, composition bodies, patterns, stands, porcelain slip, kilns, kiln accessories and tools are available from:

Seeley's  
P.O. Box 669  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
Tel: (607) 433-1240  
Fax: (607) 432-2042  
Email: seeley@seeleys.com  
Website: www.seeleys.com

All Doll Artisan Guild painting seminars employ the Waterbase Technique. Check with the DAG or Seeley's for a complete seminar guide and scheduled list or go to [www.dollartisanguild.org](http://www.dollartisanguild.org).

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Use these charts if you are switching from the Oilbase Technique to the Waterbase Technique™.

**MEDIA**

Any DRY china paint works equally well in either medium

	<b>Waterbase</b>	<b>Oilbase</b>
For painting fine lines:	Line or Ultra Fine Line Medium	Pen Medium
For painting larger areas:	Area Medium	Brushing Medium
To smooth paint:	Anti Blotch	no replacement
For cleaning brushes:	Water	Pure Gum Turpentine
	No replacement	Mixing Medium
	No replacement	Balsam of Copaiba
	No replacement	Lavender Oil

**BRUSHES – suggestions**

To avoid contamination, keep separate sets of brushes for the different techniques.

**Waterbase**

Eyebrow Brush #1  
Eyebrow Line #2  
Eyelash Liner #1 or Ultra Lash  
Lip Brush #1 or Lip Definer Small  
China Mop #8  
Accent Liner  
Super Brow Brush

**Oilbase**

Mini Liner  
Dresden Liner  
Mini Liner  
Cat's Tongue or Berry Brush  
China Mop  
Spotter or Extra Fine Detail or Mini Liner  
Ultra Liner