Old techniques re-discovered: The spring tension and marbling techniques

BOTZ brush-on glaze: Liquid – dust-free – non-toxic is very well suited for exciting traditional engobe techniques on ceramics just biscuit-fired or already glazed, on self-made or purchased earthenware!

You can find the complete BOTZ program with many ideas for designing and tips for processing in the current BOTZ catalogue.

Just request your copy!
Overglazing of smoothly fired earthenware ceramics

Many of our BOTZ brush-on glazes can easily be fired to economically purchased earthenware ceramics in the firing range of **1050°C**. **CAUTION:** high fired chinaware is less suitable as the glazes do not adhere well to it and crackles more strongly.

Inexpensive, low fired earthenware plates and bowls from the furniture trade are particularly appropriate. Also objects already glazed with BOTZ or tiles purchased from the DIY market are well-suited for redesigning with BOTZ. Here, the 1050°C glazes melt together with the glaze of the same temperature range already fired.

A variety of application techniques can be used:

- Brush techniques, masking and spraying, speckling using a spray gun or tooth brush, spring tension technique and marbling (particularly suitable for horizontal surfaces such as plates and tiles) and also sgraffito technique.

Using a banding wheel, you can produce interesting evenly rounded decors, in particular on plates or tiles.

**TIP:** Brushing different-coloured glazes into each other: Apply one colour as evenly as possible to the ceramics on a banding wheel covering the whole surface. Then, one or more other colours are brushed wet in wet into it by smearing by lowering the brush with the other glaze slowly onto the quickly rotating ceramic and thus carefully brushing in the other colour.

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**Spring tension technique**

1. Various glazes are brushed evenly side by side or combined in part.
2. Using a stick or a needle, depending on the requested line thickness, the glazes are amalgamated immediately afterwards whilst they are still liquid, e.g. parallel lines alternating in opposite directions or unfolding or collapsing in a star-shape for round decors. After each draw, you can wipe the stick, clean or dip it into a different glaze before applying it again.

**TIP:** Marks can be set, e.g., by regularly or irregularly spreading irregularly drawn dots, forming a star shape.

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**The marbling technique**

1. Different colours are dripped irregularly side by side or into each other, e.g. with a brush. For this purpose, the glazes must be diluted with water so that they can spread better and not form thick layers. Excessively thick layers can lead to thick edges during firing.
2. Now, the plate, e.g., is swivelled into different directions or carefully shaken until the colours run into each other more or less strong in marble patterns.

**TIP:** For a clean boundary, let the marbled interior part dry, correct the contour and rim the edge in one colour as desired.

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Typical red flower pots purchased at a low price can be refined easily with BOTZ brush-on glazes at reasonable prices. Baked animal figures, e.g. from the DIY store, can also be redesigned in this way. Simply apply BOTZ Glasur in two thick layers with the brush an let dry well before firing! **CAUTION:** please check whether the pieces really are stable at 1050°C.

If you apply the spring tension method or marbling technique to biscuit firing objects, please soak the objects sufficiently prior to applying the glaze so that the biscuit ware no longer draws in the glaze. Leave everything to dry well prior to firing.

Intense watering of the biscuit ware also makes it possible for you to use the spring tension and the marbling technique with BOTZ engobes. To do so, the engobes are diluted with water to prevent them from forming thick layers. Here, the following applies too: let the engobe dry slowly and let the object to dry thoroughly prior to firing.

**TIP:** Always dilute only the required quantity of the engobe or glaze in a another vessel and label the latter.