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TERRA SIG HOW TO

TERRA SIG RECIPE (PETE PINNELL'S RECIPE)

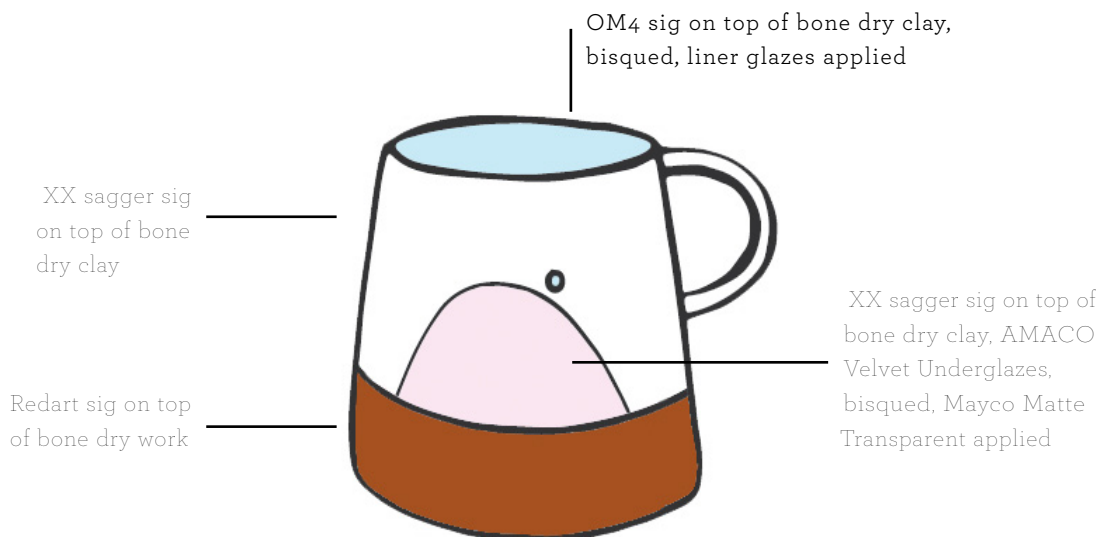
- 28 LBS H₂O
- 14 LBS clay
- 50 g sodium silicate (deflocculant)

I use XX sagger, OM4, and redart as my clays (see image of mug below).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING TERRA SIG

- Add H₂O to a 5 gallon bucket
- Add sodium silicate and mix well
- Slowly begin adding the clay into the bucket of water while mixing
- Once all of the clay is in the bucket mix for a full five minutes
- Set the bucket at least 12" above ground level and let sit for 24 hours
- Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock...
- Pour off all of the delicious sig (it'll be sort of liquidy and beautiful and smooth)
- DON'T let the gross sludge at the bottom of the bucket get into your container of sig
- Throw out the sludge (do NOT attempt to reclaim this as it has deflocculant in there!)
- Viola!

Okay! So meow you have sig! **Congrats!** I use the OM4 as a sort of gesso or primer for my liner glazes (interior of mugs, bowls, etc. The XX sagger sig is that silky white surface on the exterior of my vessels. The redart is the terracotta looking surface on the exterior. No surfaces of my vessels are left untouched (without sig/slips, glazes, etc.).





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INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING TERRA SIG

First thing. You must **MUST** make sure your pieces are **totally bone dry** before applying sig! If you attempt to apply sig to a wet surface you're not going to penetrate the clay enough to get a healthy coat of sig on the ware.

You can apply terra sig by dipping, spraying, or brushing. I personally brush my sigs onto vessels because I want to see variation in the thickness of sig on my pinched surfaces. If you have smooth surfaced vessels you might want to spray or dip with your sig.

Typically I brush on about 1.5 coats of terra sig onto my ware. I've used it long enough and have come to know my sigs and how many coats I should apply and what they should look like in a green state.

VERY IMPORTANT! Sig reacts differently on different clay bodies, textural surfaces of the ware, and at different firing temperatures. You want to be sure that you test test test when it comes to using terra sigs.

If you'd like some pointers on making and storing/organizing test tiles you can visit my website at: www.didemmert.com/technical

More info concerning my process, including the application and firing of lustres, can be found using the same link. Happy making! **Cheers!**