**Firing China Paints**

China paints are fired in a standard electric hobby kiln. They should be fired slowly to allow good adhesion and to prevent specs caused when organics are not properly burned out. A certain amount of trial and error may be necessary for the best results and so colors turn out as desired. Many china paint manufacturers recommend pretesting sensitive colors, like rose, before firing your ware.

**Venting**

Venting is also very important in firing china paints to insure proper development of colors and to remove the unpleasant fumes which occur during firing. Volatile oils used in china paints need to burn off and require sufficient venting.

Installation of a downdraft vent system will eliminate venting concerns for both the ware and the kiln room. Slowing down the firing gives more time for the fumes to be removed and air to circulate in the kiln. If true colors do not develop, lack of air in the kiln is usually the problem.

**Proper Heatwork**

Overfiring and underfiring are two other big problem areas for heat sensitive china paints. Rough, dull colors and pinks and roses that turn brown signal underfirings. Lost and faded colors or glossy patches can be the result of overfiring.

Apply colors in the right order for firing or low-fire colors will burn off and be lost during subsequent firings.

Using Self-Supporting witness cones during the firing to check the heat-work on the kiln shelf will help eliminate problems due to too much or too little heatwork.

**Want to learn more?**

Read more about applying and firing China Paints in the Orton Firing Line and Technical Tips publications. Members of the Orton Center For Firing receive these publications at no charge. Single copies are available to nonmembers at a per issue rate. Orton’s 80 minute video, *Key Principles of Successful Firing*, is also an excellent resource on firing.

For information on Orton products, see your Orton dealer or distributor.

For information on the Center For Firing, video or publications, contact Orton Center For Firing, PO Box 2760, Westerville OH 43086, 614-895-2663