

Basic Decorative Techniques Using Colored Slips/Engobes

Slip should be applied to soft to leather-hard clay.

1. Mishima – Process of incising the clay and then filling in the groves with a slip. The excess slip is then scraped off after it has become leather hard leaving the slip only in the groves.
2. Sgraffito – Decorative technique where slip is carved through revealing the clay underneath.
3. Slip Trailing – Application of slip with a dispenser with narrow tip that leaves a raised line or dots of slip on the clay surface.
4. Brushwork – Simply applying slip with a brush to create patterns or covering a complete area. Calligraphy and Texture can also be created.
5. Stenciling – Masking parts of the clay with paper, or other material to prevent slip application where the paper is applied. Think of found objects that you can use as a stencil. Leaves are an obvious choice.
6. Sprigging – Process of attaching low relief decorations of damp clay on already formed greenware. Clay can be sprigged on top of the applied slip to contrast the sprigged on clay from the colored slip.
7. Feathering – pulling a feather or any other narrow tool to create patterns in wet lines of slip.
8. Combing Through – Rubbing through slip to reveal clay underneath while slip is wet. Texture and patterns are created in the slip. You can do this with a tool such as a rib, modeling tool, or fingers.
9. Stamping/impressed texture - Process of applying a texture or pattern with a tool that has a design in relief that is transferred to the clay surface. Stamping can be combined with other techniques such as sprigging and mishima.
10. **What other techniques could be used with slips?**