



CHATTER

CAPE POTTERY SUPPLIES - P O BOX 36, STEENBERG, 7966

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RETREAT BRANCH : Kiln Contracts Building,
11 Celie Road, Retreat 7945
MONTAGUE GARDENS BRANCH : Claybright ® Building,
No 1 Stella Mews, 23 Stella Rd, Montague Gardens
SOMERSET WEST BRANCH : 3a Stuart Close, Heritage Park
Somerset Business Park, Somerset West

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From Jana in Retreat Branch

Hello All – With winter upon us, even the mild one we're having this year and we would like to nest, but it is time to work and to make it easier we have new bisqueware to tempt you. Also the new LIVING COLOUR 1200 C glazes are now available in warm earth colours.

We also have new stock of Gare underglazes, glazes & acrylics.

And to make it all come together we're introducing the KFL014 kiln, 14 cubic foot which takes the 550 x 550 x 20 mm shelf.

For the more adventurous we keep in permanent stock of our popular Fenix Stoneware clay, which is very forgiving and suitable for sculpting, raku and wheel work so come in and see our range.

Keep warm and see you soon!

From Greg in Montague Gardens Branch

A question that I've frequently been asked concerns the correct mixing proportions for plaster of paris. Hopefully our readers will find the following information to be of help:

The ratio of water to plaster affects the setting time, the final strength and the absorbency of the set plaster after it has dried. The weakest practical mixture is 100 parts of water to 110 parts of plaster by weight. The result is a light

plaster with about 50 % absorbency but is not physically strong. The strongest mixture is 100 parts of water to 140 parts plaster. This gives a strong heavy plaster with about 35 % absorbency. With the 110's mix there are about 7 minutes available between mixing and commencement of setting. With the 140's mix there are about 4 minutes. The 140's mix is used for cases and any originals, which need to remain intact during the parting process. A 130's mix is used for pressing moulds, casting moulds and jolly moulds where these moulds form the outside of the articles. A 120's mix is a general mix for hump moulds and absorbent bats where absorbency with reasonable strength is required.

The measured amount of powdered plaster should be sifted through a 20 # sieve and then sprinkled into the measured amount of water. (Lukewarm water 20 – 30°C will retard the setting while hot water above 40°C will accelerate the setting time) The sprinkling is intended to give a thorough wetting to each particle. A thorough wetting prevents any lumps. Then continue to stir gently to prevent frothing and the formation of bubbles. A fresh batch of plaster should give 3 – 6 minutes of pouring time, while an older plaster, which has had time to absorb moisture from the air, may only give 1 minute.

Cleanliness of mixing utensils is obviously essential or you may find your hand set in the plaster as soon as stirring begins! It is necessary to store the plaster of paris powder in a dry place, otherwise it becomes preset!

Have fun!

At CPS we invest in poly-lined bags to store our products that ensures freshness and keeps moisture out.

***From Aafke in Somerset West
Branch***

It's wintertime – time for storing up energy and inspiration for the year ahead. Come and take part in Elsabe's exciting, wide variety of short courses and demonstrations. If nothing appeals – give us suggestions. I'm confident something will whet your appetite.

Go and view the small collection of ceramic work at the Sasol Museum in Stellenbosch. It's wonderful, but begging to be extended. Let's help one another by encouraging them to add to it.

Check out new books in your local library , Somerset West has a beautiful one on Noria Mabasa.

Visit us just to see our wonderful new Living Colour 1200C range of low stoneware glazes.

Ceramics SA has a winter workshop. There's a wood-firing jamboree in McGregor. Go out and savor colour, texture, shape and then concretize these experiences by creating ceramics and sculpture to be shared by us all – the clay art community language.



E-mail received from Steve Shapiro –
Watersound Pottery.

The small extruder made and sold by Cape Pottery supplies has opened vast new areas of creativity and quality convenience for the

team at Watersound Pottery. Every time I use it I congratulate myself for buying it. In spite of its size the extruder has a remarkable capacity and although I don't do a lot of hand building, the convenient and efficient delivery of coils has got me thinking. If hand-builders working with coils think that production time is a factor I would not be at all surprised if they were able to increase their output three-fold. We are using it in combination with slab-building and standard press-moulded pieces: with the latter technique subtle variations can be adapted to make each piece unique and original. I have used thin, "spaghetti" extrusions to draw on tiles and to wrap and layer into lace-like basket forms. In throwing it is particularly useful in adding more substantial rims to bottles and bowls, inter alia, that call - after completing the initial throwing - for a "punctuating statement" rather than the wishy-washy incompleteness of the undifferentiated rim that often mars successful wheelwork. The coil is added to the leather-hard rim and then "thrown" to marry it to the entire pot. The range and possibilities emanating from this robust piece of equipment seem endless.

Perhaps the most profound attribute of the extruder must be its ability to stimulate creativity: I think I'm even going to make some money out of it.



NEW PRODUCTS

If you are serious about slip casting – we have introduced three new slip casting tables at the Sivuyile College Campus in Gugulethu.

These tables are designed for quick and easy slip casting which also stop a lot of waste of slip by catching the excess slip back into a bucket for re-use.

They also allow for easy storage of rubber bands, moulds, buckets, tools etc.



CALENDAR

HINTS & TIPS

It has come to my attention that some people are experiencing pin-holing in the glaze firing. The problem arises from gases that are still trapped in the clay and are only released once the glaze is molten. To remedy this it is recommended to do a longer soak +/- 1 hour when bisque firing to 1000 °C. This will release the gases.

Elsabé



THE POTTERS' ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

Calling all Namibian potters, sculptors and clay enthusiasts!

The Potters' Association of Namibia is preparing for the 2nd National Ceramics Biennale to be held 10 – 25 September 2004 in the Main Gallery of the National Art Gallery in Windhoek. Our guest potter/ selector Mr Meshack Masuku from South Africa will present workshops during the opening weekend.

Keep working on your entries!!!

All levels of expertise will be eligible for awards and prizes from beginners to advanced potters. Entry forms available to NAGN, Windhoek and Hobby Horse Art Gallery, Swakopmund. Additional information on this event can be obtained from Sharon tel : 064-402875 or Clinton tel : 064-400912 or e-mail lanco@iway.na

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CERAMICS SA (formerly APSA)

28 August : Winter Workshop in aid of and at the Durbanville Clay Museum, Rust-en Vrede, 10 Wellington Road, Durbanville. 09h00 to 17h00

27th September deadline for entries for the REGIONAL EXHIBITION which runs from 6 – 27 October 2004 at Art b (Arts Association of Bellville) in the Bellville Library Centre.

20 November RONDEBOSCH POTTERS MARKET

For further details Tel : 021-6716139 Ralph Johnson or Yvonne Thurtell on 021-975 6228.



CRAIG'S HELPLINE.....

When a kiln has stood unused for some time – this is particularly true of high rainfall areas, and where the kiln has been left undercover outside, the refractory bricks act like a sponge and absorbs water. The water absorption is no real problem to the bricks themselves but over time it is unkind to the elements as they begin to rust and start pitting. More importantly when the kiln is reconnected to an earth leakage trip switch the water facilitates a small current discharge from the elements to earth and causes the earth leakage to trip out.

The only solution here is to dry the kiln out using a small heater placed inside the kiln with the door ajar!! The refractories will warm up and any moisture will be driven away from the elements. Be careful to check your heater from time to time in order that it doesn't overheat and damage itself. Remember bricks are designed to contain heat. The period of time that it should be subjected to is dependant on the type of heater you are using and the amount of moisture.

We would recommend a slow drying over a day or two.

Happy potting



Kamel Kiln – capacity 45 litres. R 3500-00.
(I will include various glazes etc that are of no use to me) Contact H R Edwards on 042-294 0866

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Pugmill 3HP with gearbox. Voetstoots. R 1500-00.
Tel : 028-271 4213

Centrifugal blunger, 200 litre, Harpers, 3 phase, 4kW.
Voetstoots. R 1500-00
Tel : 028-271 4213

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Bisqueware made to order (wheel-thrown white stoneware and red earthenware). Contact Jeanette for information or visit her at 19 Eleventh Ave, Kleinmond.
Telefax : 028-271 4106.

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4.14 cubic foot electric kiln for sale. Front loading Wenger. Price R 3000-00.
Phone L J Kibel on 021-7621977

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Pottery wheel, standing model + 42 bats mounted on wheel, different sizes. Extras – dry clay +/- 10 – 20 bags. R 4000-00 cash.
Cell : 082 451 2778 Janita

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12.5 cu. ft. Front loading kiln, 10 shelves, props, controller. Good condition in Kalk Bay.
R 15 000-00 onco.

Cell : 072 431 4123
80 cu. ft. Electric kiln with furniture.
2 x 3 phase jiggers
Numerous moulds – new and used.
6 casting tables.
Assortment of bisqueware – functional and decorative.
Small and med. Terracotta pots for indoor plants.
Front loading kiln with controller and furniture 3 cu. ft.
All reasonable offers considered.
Tel after hours : 053-833 7174
e-mail : bizzybees@mweb.co.za

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2-Day one-on-one glass bead making course in my studio! Further information : 021-8516166.

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For Sale, Excellent condition :

Dabeb kiln 580 single phase R 15 000-00
DPWI High wheel (0.37kW motor) R 3 500-00
Glazes, buckets, banding wheel, sieve R 1640-00
Elisabeth de Waal – 082 821 6295

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Clayman Top Loader Kiln 6,9 cubic foot – new elements, shelves and props R 6 200-00.
Excellent working order.
Phone 028-3123696 or 028-3162766

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WANTED

Wanted to buy :
Electric, front loading kiln, single phase, approx. 15-20 cubic foot, in good nick!
Call Sarah Walters 021-876 4304.

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Looking For : Potters Electric Wheel & Tabletop Slabroller. I can be contacted on 021-8801414 (after 14:00) Esté Strauss.

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Looking for 1,5 cu ft kiln with or without controller.
Phone Erika Tel : 09264-61-225421

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Adverts are charged at a minimum of R40-00 per advert for 25 words and R4-50 per word thereafter, to a maximum of 50 words. Adverts are entered on a first come first served basis, as space is limited.

THE NEXT CPS CHATTER IS DUE OUT IN OCTOBER 2004 – Please submit your articles/adverts before 30 September 2004.