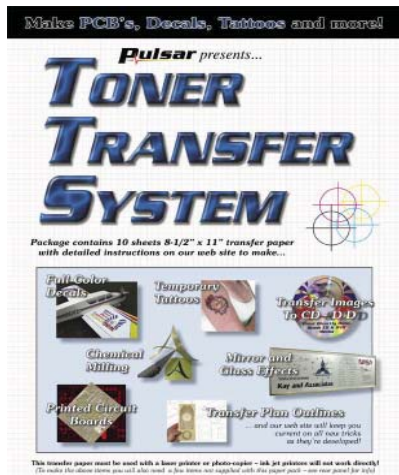


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Unit Lesson Plans / Critical Thinking / Collaboration / Handout Lesson 4 Toner Transfer

How to Transfer Digital Images Onto Clay Using The Toner Transfer Process

Step 1:



The Toner Transfer Process is a quick way to put digital images on a clay surface. First you must use a special type of paper to print your image onto. Direct Transfer Decal Paper, can be ordered on the internet.

Step 3:



Any digital image can be used to make a toner transfer. Manipulating the image using a photo editor like Adobe Photoshop may yield in better transfers. You may want to consider changing the image to black & white and adjusting the contrast to eliminate gray areas.

Step 2:



DO NOT use ink jet printers, the ink is organic and will burn out during firing! Only a special type of ink called "toner" used in copy machines and laser toner printers will work. Toner consists of iron oxide, a dry, powdery substance that is widely used in ceramic applications, particularly in glazing. Iron oxide usually yields raw and burnt siennas and umbers.

Step 4:



Make sure that you reverse your images (this can be done in Photoshop or any other photo editor) before printing them out, especially when using text.

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Step 5:



Using spray adhesive, lightly spray an even coat on the front of the image and the glazed surface. After the surface becomes tacky, apply the image face down.

Step 7:



Using a sponge, apply water to the back of the image (as you would with a temporary tattoo). Continue to wet the paper until it begins to slide, then carefully pull the backing off of the image and lightly sponge the excess water off of the ceramic surface.

Step 6:



Using a rib tool or other flat tool, burnish the image onto the surface. Apply even pressure to the entire surface.

Step 8:



After loading the kiln, make sure to fire the toner transfers to a cooler temperature than the piece's glaze. Usually firing 4-6 cones lower is a good rule of thumb. Since kilns and glazes differ, it is recommended to do a few tests first.

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