

Spruzzo Technique

NEEDED:

- Trowels - either stainless steel or plastic. They can be purchased at Home Depot, Lowes, etc. There are two sides, one beveled, one sharp. I tend to use beveled edge. There are other trowels w/different edges that can be found in the flooring sections. A 'V' notched trowel and a square notched trowel. They can be used to make interesting designs.
- Fusing Solution, a glazing glue: Can be bought from Fusion Headquarters in Oregon (Gil Reynolds)
- Powdered Frit and clear sheet glass
- Mixing cups & spoons - I use small silicone baking cups and stainless steel lab spoons from Amazon.

GENERAL NOTES:

- 1) Scoop some powder into mixing cup and add Fusing Solution. Approximate ratio is three parts powder to 1.5 parts Fusing Solution.
- 2) Begin mixing to a thick paste, then spray with some water to a loose peanut butter consistency.
- 3) I tried this with aloe but found that it dried and chipped off too easily after it had dried. Liquid Stringer might also work. Anything in the glue realm will work because after you put on one layer on, you wait for it to dry. The key to this technique is not moving your prior colors.
- 4) Mix only what you need. If you mix too much you can put them in a plastic baggie where they will stay wet for a day or two, depending on where you are.

TECHNIQUE:

- I usually do a test piece so I know what my colors will look like.
 - Using a 3mm piece of clear as your base trowel your first color onto your base. Make sure to leave plenty of area exposed so you can add and overlap colors.
 - Allow to dry completely before adding each additional color. Use 2-6 colors depending on the look you wish to achieve. Overlap colors a bit but always leave negative space.
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- Put in kiln - **texture side up** - fire up to 1325° (for both COE 90 and 96), hold for 5 minutes. If your base piece is large or your powders are applied thick add an anneal cycle in your cool down. *******IMPORTANT- Vent your kiln up to 1000° to allow the Fusing Solution to burn out clean.**
 - Once fired you to see the true colors so you can pick the background you want.
 - After picking your background color, firing texture side up allows you to see the depth. I tend to cut the base piece slightly larger because it makes a frame around the piece, which I like.
 - *The project is food safe as long as you are using food safe colors.*