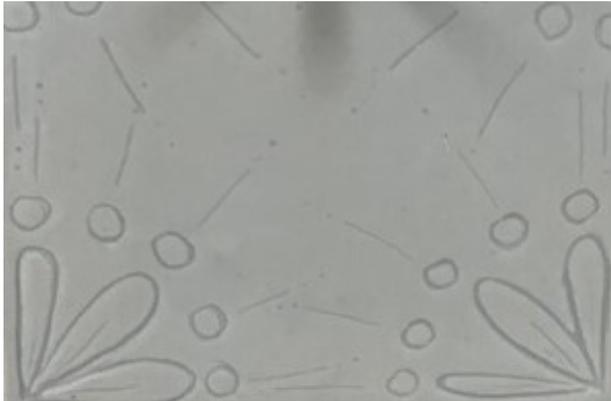
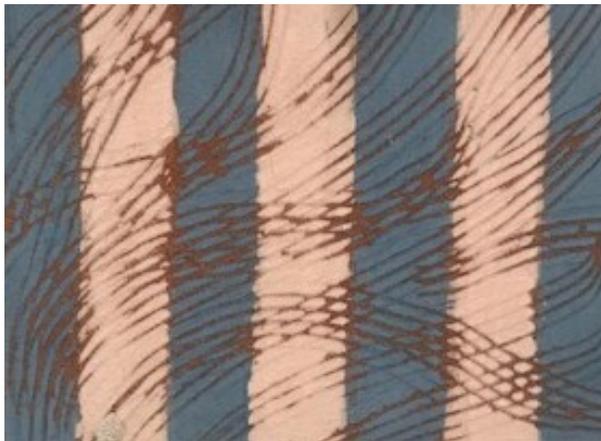


# DECORATING TECHNIQUES



## Carving

Use a pointed tool, or loop tool to cut or scratch a design into leather hard clay. It helps to use a dry brush to remove any clay burrs along the cut edges. You can also press your tool through a sheet of plastic to leave nice edges as well.



## Dry Combing

Apply different colors of slips to clay and allow it to dry. Use a serrated rib or other sharp tool to scratch through the slip.



## Combing

First apply a slip of one color and then another color on top. Allow to dry for a few minutes and then comb through with a tool. The tool used for this tile was a spackle spreader from the paint section of the hardware store. You can also cut up a credit card to make your own custom combing tool.



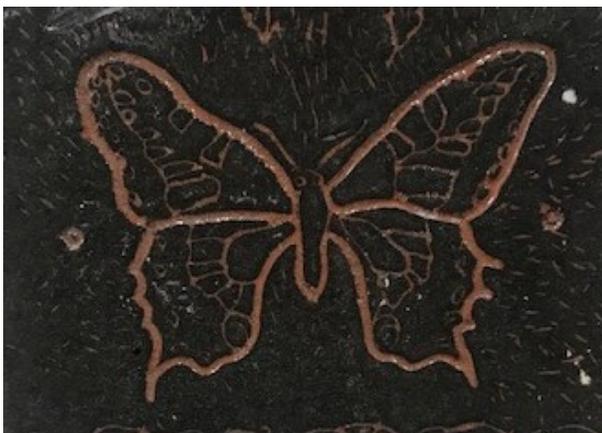
## Feathering

Use a squeeze bottle to apply alternating stripes of different slip colors on wet clay. The stripes should butt up against each other. Tap your work on the table to allow any gaps in the stripes to fill in. Without letting the needle tool touch the clay, drag the tool through the stripes of slip to create the feathering.



## Hydroabrasion with Wax

Paint entire surface with a contrasting color of slip, and allow it to become bone dry. Paint a design in wax resist. Allow the wax to dry and then wipe away areas that do not have wax on them to reveal the design. You can do this using a damp sponge.



## sgraffitto

Brush a coat of slip onto leather hard clay. Let the slip dry and then use a needle tool or sgraffitto tool to scratch through the slip to reveal the clay underneath. Works well with a contrasting slip color!



## sgraffitto 2

Here is another example of sgraffitto where more of the clay body is revealed than example one. Brush a coat of slip onto leather hard clay. Let it dry and then use a needle tool or sgraffitto tool to scratch through the slip to reveal the clay underneath



## Slip Inlay w/ Wax

Brush on a coat of wax onto leather hard clay. Allow the wax to dry and then incise a drawing into the clay ( through the wax) with a needle tool, or other sharp tool. Brush slip or underglaze onto the lines, making sure it gets into all the lines. Allow the slip or underglaze to dry, and then remove the excess with a damp sponge.



## Slip Inlay 2

Draw a design onto leather hard clay, making sure to carve deep lines. Use a stiff dry brush to remove any clay burrs from the lines. Brush slip into the lines, making sure it gets into all of the lines. Allow slip to set up and then remove excess slip by sponging off the clay surface. You can also remove the excess slip by scraping it off with a metal rib.



## Slip Trailing

Use a slip trail bottle filled with slip to draw your design on wet clay. You can practice on newspaper to check the thickness of the slip.



## Sprig Molds

Press small balls of clay into bisque or plaster sprig molds and apply the molded clay to leather hard clay. Be sure to score and slip the sprigs onto the piece. There are bisque sprigs in the handbuilding room.



## Stamping

You can find bisque and rubber stamps in the handbuilding room. Stamp into wet clay to get the imprint. Use a glaze that is transparent or pools to show the stamp.



## Stencils

Cut simple paper stencils. Position stencils on the leather hard clay surface and use a rolling pin to gently press the stencil into the clay surface, then brush slip on. Once the slip has set up, you can remove the stencils. On a round pot, you can slightly dampen the stencil to get it to stick better.



## Texture

A plastic net bag was pressed into leather hard clay with a rolling pin. Then brush the slip over the impressed netting. Once the slip has set up, gently remove the texture (netting) to reveal a crisp pattern.