

The Use Of Water Soluble Colorants On Egyptian Paste

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Egyptian paste is being used since 7000 years. The source materials for the synthesis of Egyptian paste are quartz, bentonite, feldspar and glass-forming alkali salts/soda ash. Especially quartz and soda ash enable glazed effect even at the low temperatures such as 950°C – 1050°C. Usually, copper oxide or other metallic oxides such as cobalt, manganese, iron, nickel, chromium used to get turquoise, blue, green, purple and some other colors. In this case, it is necessary to prepare separate batch for each single color. Instead of metallic oxides, dissolved metallic salts can be used for coloring objects made with Egyptian paste. The solutions of metallic salts are directly applied on the objects. With this method, it is easy to get different colors in the same clay body. Another advantage of using this method is having a rich color scale by using different concentration of these solutions and applying different metallic salts together.

In this study, gold, copper, cobalt, manganese, iron, nickel, chromium, palladium, platinum and silver soluble salts have been used to color the Egyptian paste samples. Colorless samples were put on the powder of quartz, alumina or talc to protect the kiln shelf. After the samples got dry, solutions were applied by the means of disposable pipettes. The samples have been fired at 1200°C in electric kiln.

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