HOW TO MIX YOUR GLAZE

A simple starting point for mixing handmade glaze powders

LAIMA CERAMICS

0.7 : 1	70 g	350 g	1.75 kg
WATER : POWDER	water for 100 g powder	water for a 500 g bag	water for 2.5 kg powder

1. MIX THE ENTIRE BAG

Important: Because our glazes are made by hand, the dry powder is not homogeneous throughout the bag. To ensure the ingredients are evenly distributed, **mix the entire bag at once. Do not split the dry powder into smaller batches.**

Choose a bucket with enough room to stir comfortably: at least 1 L for a 500 g bag, and around 5 L for a 2.5 kg bag. Add the full bag of powder and the calculated starting amount of water, then mix thoroughly. Wear a suitable dust mask when handling dry powder and avoid creating dust.

2. STARTING RATIO AND WHEN TO CHANGE IT

The standard ratio is 1 : 1 water to powder, but we recommend starting thicker, especially if you plan to apply the glaze by brushing. Begin with **0.7 parts water to 1 part glaze powder by weight**. Mix thoroughly with a brush. Add water gradually until the glaze suits your application method. It is easier to thin a glaze than to correct one that has become too runny.

Always sieve the glaze after adding water, to remove any lumps and get a smooth, even mix. **Exception: Lava glazes** also perform well without sieving; just give them a good blend with a blender or drill mixer.

The 0.7 : 1 ratio is a useful starting point, and for some glazes it is the ideal working consistency. Others behave differently: **RON CREAM**, for example, needs around **1.3 : 1** water to powder to reach a good dipping consistency. Add water gradually and adjust to the glaze and the way you plan to apply it.

APPLICATION	GUIDE SG	GENERAL CONSISTENCY
Spraying	~1.40	Thinner
Dipping	~1.45	Medium
Brushing	~1.50	Thicker

Specific gravity (SG) is a more reliable way to check consistency than water quantity alone. For a quick check, weigh exactly 100 ml of glaze: 140 g = SG ~1.40; 145 g = SG ~1.45; 150 g = SG ~1.50. These are starting guidelines, not fixed rules.

3. APPLICATION METHOD AND TYPE OF PIECE

Most of our glazes can be applied by brushing, dipping, pouring or spraying, but the ideal consistency is different for each method. We mostly pour our glazes: even a small 0.5 kg batch is enough for pouring, and it creates an even layer faster than brushing. Adjust the glaze to the piece in front of you:

- **Porcelain** absorbs glaze more quickly, so we suggest watering the glaze down for porcelain.
- **Thin-walled pieces** absorb less glaze than thick ones, so adjust accordingly.
- **Large pieces**, for example pouring inside a large bowl: the clay absorbs a lot of glaze while you work your way around, so we would again water the glaze down.
- **Small pieces**, such as tapas bowls: thicken the glaze slightly so you can glaze many pieces quickly.

4. TEXTURAL GLAZES

For all **Colour Lava**, **Volcanic Grey** and **Crater** glazes: these typically need a layer **3 4 times thicker** than a regular glaze, applied by dabbing with a brush. The 0.7 : 1 ratio is ideal here, giving a thick, sour-cream consistency you can build layers with. If you are pouring or dipping instead, feel free to water it down.

5. TEST, RECORD, REFINE

Glaze thickness affects colour, texture, pooling and surface effects. Results also vary with clay body, application method, kiln position and firing schedule. Test on your own clay and record the SG, application method and firing result so you can repeat the results you like.

> **TOO THIN?** Let the glaze stand for a few hours, then carefully pour off some clear water from the surface and mix again. If the glaze settles hard or is difficult to remix, a suitable deflocculant may help but use one only with appropriate guidance.

6. FIRING

Our glazes are developed for high-fired oxidation, generally **cone 6 9**. We test and fire them all at **1260 C** actual heat work, even though our kiln display reads 1230 C. Some glazes perform well at cone 6, while others are reliable up to cone 9 and higher.

BISQUE	To 980 C, 30 min soak.
HIGH FIRE	60 C / hr to 300 C 80 C / hr to 1230 C on the kiln display (approx. 1260 C actual heat work, confirmed by cones) 30 min soak, natural cool down.
KILN	ROHDE TE 200S BH toploader.

We use this same schedule for all the glazes shown, including the LAVA and CRYSTALLINE glazes. Lower-temperature or different-kiln results may differ. Always test before use.

Wishing you great success in your pottery journey, and thank you for choosing our handmade glazes.
We truly hope you will be happy with them.