



## Paint-Your-Own Pottery Take & Make Project Pack

Thanks for bringing creativity home! Below are step-by-step directions to get you started. There are also tips to help you avoid common pitfalls and have the best success, since we aren't right there to help you. Please shoot us an email at [info@550arts.com](mailto:info@550arts.com) if you have questions and we will do our best to respond within 24 hours.

### In your kit, you will will have:

- A small clean sponge
- A Return slip (fill this out prior to drop off)
- A Piece of pottery based on order
- A Three Pack of 10mL containers in underglaze color kit of choice
- Two smaller 5mL containers of black and white underglaze
- Three blue handled brushes of different sizes/shapes
- If ordered: any additional 10mL packs of three colors

### Other Materials you will need:

- a bowl of clean water
- a cup of water for rinsing off brushes between colors
- a tupperware lid or paper plate to mix colors (optional)
- inspiration (the internet is a treasure trove of ideas!)
- a clean plastic bag (This is only if you will not be able to drop your pot off within a day or two of finishing. This keeps ambient dust off of your pot so the glaze we apply has a clean surface to absorb into.)

### Getting Started:

1. **Wash your hands** to remove any greasy food residue or lotion. Clear the table of food.
2. **Wipe off** the inside and the outside of your pot with a slightly dampened sponge. This removes excess dust/debris that may be on your pot. Do not wash your pot in the sink or saturate it with water. It will not absorb the underglazes well if wet.
3. **Make a plan.** Do some online research. Think about what you would like to add to the piece before you start painting so you can make the most of your materials. Take a pencil and draw your design on the pot if you'd like. The pencil lines will burn off in the kiln.



4. **Paint!** A single coat of color will be semi-transparent. If you would like a vibrant, bright, and solid color, paint on 3 coats (and let the underglaze dry in between layers).
5. **Fill out your PYO info sheet.** This will be returned to the studio with your pot, brushes, and any extra underglazes. Be sure to paint your name, initials, or some other identifying mark on the bottom or sides.
6. **Drop everything\* off** at our studio and **pick up** your pot two weeks later, glazed and ready to use (see note below)!
7. **BONUS OPTION:** If you have leftover underglazes, you can purchase another pot at drop off and use your underglazes on that second piece without having to pay the materials fee again. You get two pots painted and only pay one materials fee (a savings of \$10).

\* All brushes and underglaze containers must be returned to the studio (empty or full) with your pot in order to be fired. Otherwise, the fee is \$5 for unreturned containers and brushes in order for your work to be fired. These are *underglazes*, not paints, so they are formulated to work with clay shrinkage and to withstand firing temperatures. They will not work the same as paints on paper. **Please return any unused portions.**

**TIP #1:** Avoid eating while painting your pot - especially greasy foods. The grease from your fingertips may cause underglaze or the topcoat to not absorb into the pot.

**TIP #2:** The lilac color will fade at higher temperatures even with many coats, so apply it with an extra layer, or use it as a background color (instead of for small details.)

**TIP #3:** If you are painting a color over the whole piece or if you want a background color, paint that first, instead of painting small detail designs and then carefully trying to paint a color all around it.

**TIP #4:** If you absolutely need to, you can wipe off any underglaze marks you don't like with a lightly damp sponge. If you do this, give the pot some time to dry before you paint another coat on. However, it is sometimes a fun challenge to incorporate your "mistake" into the design of the pot!

**That's it! Have fun!**