



Tip: Gold has reached all time highs in the past few years. In an effort to not waste a speck, I use a dedicated brush and dedicated water container just for Aura 22. When I'm finished with a project I rinse the brush in the same water and suspend the brush in the water container allowing the excess gold to fall to the bottom of the container. The water is left to evaporate and the dried gold can be added back to the Aura 22.

To add a little style to my studio, I love using unique and unusual containers. I found this antique medicinal measuring glass at a flea market and use it just for gold.



{ figure 1 }



{ figure 2 }

Figures 1 & 2 are tests that show how various layers of Aura 22 react with liver of sulfur. Each number represents thin layers of gold.

FOUNDATION

{ ADDING GOLD ~ AURA 22K }

I love adding gold to my pieces whenever I can. I created this piece for a fund raising auction for one of the schools that I teach at, Arrowmont School of Arts and Craft. I named the vessel "Teapot" because I was the only instructor who did not have a teapot in his portfolio. The technique for adding Aura 22 to a piece is straightforward. The key to success is in the prep work and proper firing. The beautiful color was achieved by using LOS and Aura 22.



Step-by-step directions for this project are available for download at www.CraftCast.com. CraftCast is a wonderful resource for artists and is the brainchild of Alison Lee. I first met Alison at the 2010 PMC Conference. I was giving a lecture on creativity and brainstorming when she introduced herself. Her energy and excitement for the arts and her love for the art of communication was apparent the second I met her. Through her, CraftCast provides an exciting online resource for e-learning with live events and recordings, plus interviews with artists via podcast and her through her blog. Visit www.craftcast.com for new inspiration and to download my tutorials.



1 Tonya Davidson from Whole Lotta Whimsy shared this trick with me and the other Senior Instructors at Rio Grande. Add a base coat of thin slip before adding the Aura 22. Mix distilled water in a fresh jar of slip. The consistency should be that of a thin buttermilk.



2 Using a flat brush and smooth strokes, add a thin layer of slip to any area that the Aura 22 will be applied. Set aside to dry.



3 Stir the contents of the jar if the mixture has settled. If needed, add a drop of "media" solution that is provided. Apply 2 to 3 layers until there is a solid coat with no thin spots. Dry between each coat. Set aside to dry.



4 Fire the piece using a hand held torch. Using the hottest part of the flame, heat the piece in a circular motion. Continue heating until the piece turns bright orange. Hold the color for 3 seconds, then remove the heat. Resist the temptation to over fire the piece which will cause the gold to lighten and recede into the silver.



5 Use a brass brush under running water with a drop of liquid soap for a lubricant. Brush the piece until you get the desired results.