

Using Fiberglass on Porcelain

by Val West Naber

There are two types of fiberglass that can be used on porcelain.

One is fiberglass cloth and the other is looser matted fiber version. Both can be found at most auto parts stores.

Both can be used in pretty much the same manner attaining different effects from each type.

You will be working with “glass” so wear rubber gloves to protect your hands from the glass splinters.

The basic process is to glue the fiberglass to the porcelain with Elmer’s white glue or Klyr-fire adhesive, remembering that the fiberglass will shrink slightly when fired. So, do a test fire.

One method is to saturate the fiberglass with glue mixture (1/2 water-1/2 glue) and apply it directly to the porcelain in a free form manner, let it dry completely, then fire.

The second method is to saturate the fiberglass, lay it flat on tin foil and let it dry completely. It then can be cut into shapes and glued to the porcelain. If using the cloth this allows you fray the edges for interesting effects, like animal fur.

Note: Powdered porcelain paint can be added to you glue mixture.

You can fire it from 010 to 06.

When fired at 010 it is not totally melted, has less shrinkage, and has a nice texture.

When fired at 06 it is totally melted, shrinks, and often melts into bead-like shapes.

Once fired, you can accent your raised glass design with either Liquid Bright Gold, luster, or paint.