

# Hobby Potter Life Project

## February 2018

### THE PROJECT - Mixing & Designing With Slip

This month we are going to learn how to properly make slip and practice it's application by creating raised detailed patterns.

**What is slip?** : "Slip (noun) is a liquefied suspension of clay particles in water. It is applied to wet or soft leather-hard greenware. Slip has more clay content than its other close relative, engobe and is usually the consistency of heavy cream. It is often used in decoration and as a joining agent for attaching. It may be left the natural color of the clay body from which it is made, or it may be colored with oxides." (Source: [TheSpruce.com](http://TheSpruce.com))

#### UNDERSTANDING Slips - John Britt- *Thickened Slip, Trailing Slip, Joining Slip*

- **VIDEO** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3an-E0Lk8mQ>  
Here is a quick informative video from **John Britt** that will help us understand what makes a good slip, and what we need for a successful raised slip recipe.  
(Supplemental link from a high school ceramics instructor you may find useful <https://youtu.be/dYuJo1EJaik> )
  
- **APPLICATION - Liz Zlot Summerfield - *How to Create Tactile Decoration with Slip Trailing, Terra Sigillata, and Sgraffito*** | <https://youtu.be/ONdjkL-gL0>  
For inspiration on application we have **Liz Zlot Summerfield** who shares her slip trailing techniques (and a little more about Terra Sigillata).
  
- **PATTERN & DESIGN** (optional) -  
You can start with a simple pattern of dots or if you are up for a challenge (which will improve your skills more quickly), I'd like to suggest slip trailing a [Zentangle pattern](#).

(For More Slip Trailing Videos: <http://www.pottery-making.info/pottery-making/slip-trailing/>  
(A Creative Way to Use Slip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96C7coBnEK4>

#### STEPS

1. Make a form (thrown or handbuilt, cup, bowl, tile, plate ...etc.
2. While waiting for your piece to become leather hart, prepare your slip and a method of application (applicator, brush ...or even snipping the corner off of a ziploc sandwich bag!
3. Apply design when the form is leatherhard.!
4. After bisque fire, be sure to use a glaze that calls attention to the raised areas. If they end up flattening during the bisque firing, a translucent or breaking glaze may be better suited.
5. Track your progress & share your insights with the group.  
What worked?  
What could have been better?  
What would you still like to explore?

If there are any questions or you need help, be sure to post them in the Facebook group forum so we may have a chance to help and also learn together!