

Living Color

Using chalks and pencils on fired-on transfers

by Terrie Banhazi

Objectives

- Using underglaze chalks and pencils as pastels, combined with majolica-style glazing to colorize a black-and-white transfer image
- Safe for use on food-bearing surfaces
- Transfers can be printed out on any HP or Canon black-only laser printer or copier



Fired-On Images transfer paper allows ceramic and glass artists to print out their own transfers from a laser printer or copier. Images fire to sepia brown and can be colorized with this easy technique.

Step 1: Paint three coats of white opaque glaze on the bisque tile with a fan brush and set aside to dry.

Step 2: Open or scan your image in the graphics program and size to fit within a 6-inch square. The image shown, "Mother and Child" (1897) by Mary Cassatt, is in the public domain and is available at www.fired-on.com.

Step 3: Print the image onto clay carbon and also onto the shiny side of a sheet of Fired-On Images transfer paper using any HP or Canon laser printer or photocopier that has no capability of printing in color — even a fax machine will work.

Step 4: Tape the clay carbon image into position on top of the tile and trace outlines using a pen or pencil.

Step 5: Color inside the lines using underglaze chalks and pencils.

Optional: Print your image onto a laser-compatible transparency sheet to give you an additional guide as you add color.

Step 6: Fire the tile to cone 06 and allow to cool.

Step 7: Cut out the transfer image close to the edges

Step 8: Place the transfer in a dish of clean, warm water. The image will roll up and slowly relax.

Step 9: Lift the image out of the water with the backing paper still attached and slide the transfer film onto the fired tile, carefully pulling the backing paper out from underneath.

Step 10: Line the image up over the glazed colors and push water out from underneath the transfer with a soft paper towel, working from the middle out to the edges.

Step 11: Fire the tile to cone 08. Note that by using the white glaze base, no transparent glaze is necessary. If clear glaze is used, fire the transfer at cone 014, except for Spectrum 700 clear, which can be fired to cone 06 without fading.

Step 12: Glue into a tile trivet frame or add cork or felt to the bottom of the tile.

