

Kiln Firing Guide

Cones – purchase 05 (for both bisque and glaze)

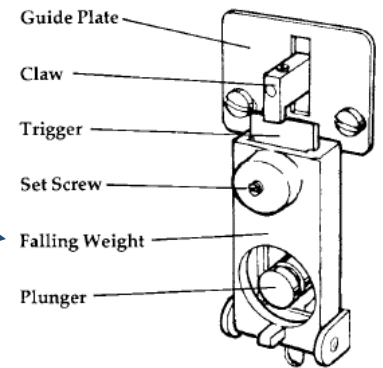
Load kiln day **before** firing.

General instructions:

- Clay must be **COMPLETELY DRY** before firing. A good idea is when clay pieces are “leather” (which means they are somewhat dry and feel cool when touched) load them in the kiln to dry the rest of the way. Thoroughly dry clay objects take approximately 3 weeks to dry.
- Clay pieces must not be near or touching the KILN SITTER that is inside the kiln
- Kiln shelves should be prepared with a KILN WASH
- Bisque firing may have clay pieces touching each other and can be stacked or turned in other positions
- Glaze firing may NOT have clay pieces touching each other. The bottoms where no glaze has been painted should be prepared with a wax resist and if there is glaze where the object will touch the kiln shelf, then KILN STILTS must be used.

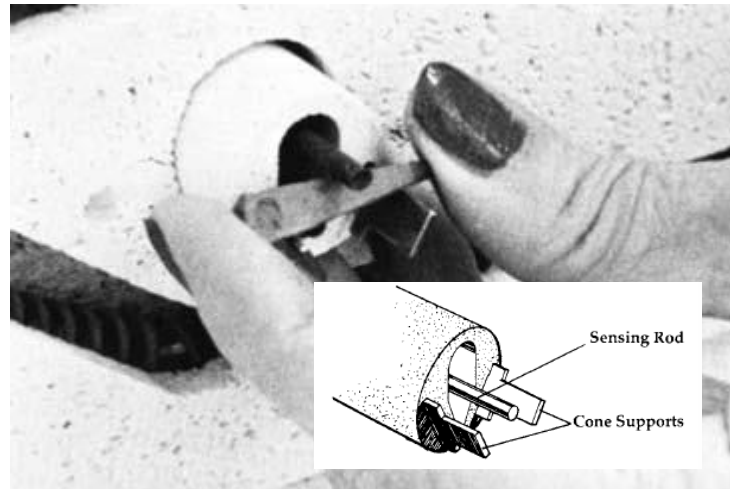


KILN STILTS

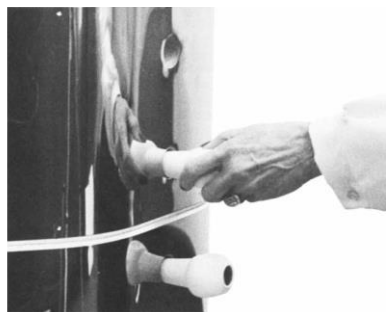


1. On front of kiln sitter plate, pull FALLING WEIGHT up and hold in place.

2. While holding up FALLING WEIGHT – and inside the kiln – place the cone below the SENSING ROD and on top of the CONE SUPPORTS (this object is the KILN SITTER) with the flat side of the cone down.



3. Plug in kiln (or turn on breaker) to get power to the kiln.
4. Put lid down on kiln.
5. Plug all but the top peephole with PEEPHOLE PLUGS



6. Turn all SWITCHES to LOW.



7. Set TIMER for 8 hours.

8. Press in the PLUNGER so it will lock (see diagram #1 on page 1)

9. Kiln must be started at 7:00 AM so it has time to complete its cycle and you can disconnect it completely before leaving school. Kilns must NOT be left on when you are not at school.

10. After 2 hours with the switches on the LOW setting, turn all SWITCHES to MEDIUM for 2 hours and put in the top peephole plug. Use a timer to help you remember.

11. After 2 hours with the switches on the MEDIUM setting, turn all SWITCHES to HIGH for the remainder of the firing time.



12. The CONE 05 will bend when maximum firing temperature has been reached and this releases the SENSING ROD which then triggers the FALLING WEIGHT on the front of the kiln to drop and turn off the kiln.

13. Cone 05 firing will take approximately 8 hours for bisque and glaze firing (which means 3:00 PM if started at 7:00 AM).

14. DO NOT attempt to open kiln or unload fired objects right after cycle is complete. Open or vent the next morning and unload in early afternoon.

15. Unplug the kiln or turn off breaker after the cycle is complete and before you leave school.

DEFINITIONS:

Kiln: a furnace or oven for burning, baking, or drying something, especially one for firing pottery

Bisque fire: is the first firing of unglazed clay, to a temperature just before vitrification (is the transformation of a substance into a glass which makes it impermeable to water) usually at a medium temperature

Glaze fire: a cycle of firing during which glaze materials are heated sufficiently to melt, forming a glassy surface coating when cooled