



# The Five Minute **SPLAT** Guide To Painting Pottery with Acrylics

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By way of a real life example, this simple step-by-step guide shows you how to make the most of your SPLAT pottery painting. Take 5 minutes to read the basic techniques and tips that will help make your SPLAT pottery come to life, plus get a fascinating introduction to the more advanced concepts that can really make your pottery stand out from the crowd!



## 1. Be Prepared!

We're not all boy scouts, but it really does pay to have everything to hand before you start. As well as the pottery, paint and brushes, have a palette, water, a tissue for drying the brushes and some paper to 'paint-off' excess paint. Put everything on an old tablecloth, dress appropriately, and have some rags to clear up any accidents.



## 2. Think about your colours

Have an idea of your colour scheme before you begin. To mix a colour, put the lighter colour in the palette first (for example white, if you are making grey). Add the tiniest amount of the darker colour then mix. Repeat until you have the colour you require. Keep the colours you have mixed just in case they are needed at the end for touching-up.



## 3. One colour at a time - Start with the light tones

Paint only one colour at a time, starting with white (for people's eye sockets) and flesh tones. Put a small amount of paint in the palette and take a modest amount of paint onto a round brush. Paint the required area evenly along the piece's natural flow. The paint will dry quickly so you can give a second coat straight away if required.



#### 4. Clean as-you-go

To prevent your brushes from going hard you must rinse them well and dry them thoroughly on tissue paper immediately you have finished each colour. Wipe your hands regularly to prevent paint transferring to unwanted areas, and clean off any paint on your clothes straight away with a clean cloth and water.



#### 5. Use a thin second brush for accurate edges

Lighter tones are easily over-painted with darker colours so don't worry if you go over the edges. However, you may also want to use a second thin (liner) brush, to help you define the edges more accurately.



#### 6. Work towards the darker colours and metallics

Work progressively from the lightest to the darkest colours, ending with the black and finally any metallic colours.

### To 3D or not to 3D - That is the question!

Shakespeare might not approve of us mis-using his quote, but SPLAT pottery looks great even when painted very simply. To keep it that way jump straight to 'Painting the eyes' (item 11) but more adventurous young artists may want to copy our simple stunning 3D effects to make their pottery even more fantastic.... Here's how!



#### 7. Dry-Brushing - where to use it and how to choose a colour

Dry Brushing creates a stunning yet subtle 3D effect. It can be used on any large area or anywhere you want to accentuate natural contours such as fur, skin or clothes. Red looks great over brown, yellow is vibrant on green, light pink is good on dark pink, and black is good for shading. If in doubt white and silver are excellent all-rounders.



### 8. Preparing to Dry-Brush

Place a small amount of paint onto a clean and ABSOLUTELY dry (preferably flat) brush. Now remove all the excess paint by painting it onto a piece of paper. Continue painting the paper until when it is brushed, barely any paint whatsoever is transferred - You CAN'T HAVE TOO LITTLE paint on the brush!



### 9. Dry-Brush against the grain

Drag your brush firmly over the surface going against or across the grain where possible - The paint should dry almost instantly. Note the subtle shading on the ridges of this wizard's cloak that catch the light, achieved with a silver dry-brush.



### 10. Build up the effect with layers

Continue dragging the brush over the pottery until the desired effect has been achieved. Here the wizard's beard and skin have also been dry-brushed with white paint.



### 11. Paint the eyes

Before you finish off, paint the eyes. You may want to refer to the final page of this document which describes in detail how to paint the eyes of people, dogs, cats, crocodiles, snakes and more.



### 12. Finishing off

Nearly done! - Make sure 100% of the pottery is covered with paint, and touch up if necessary. You may want to paint small items of jewellery, buttons, buckles or perhaps patterns on clothing. Finally, bring out some glitter paint from your SPLAT paint pack ... the sure fire way to add a final touch of sparkle to your new masterpiece!



# The SPLAT Eye Painting Guide

Use this simple guide to help you paint realistic eyes

People, Dogs, Bears, Dolphins,  
Elephants, Dinosaurs, Parrots

Cats, Crocodiles, Snakes, Sharks

## 1. Using a round brush, paint the complete eye socket



People: white

Dogs: Light Brown

Bears: Light Brown

Dolphins: Light Brown

Elephants: Light Brown

Parrots: Orange

Dinosaurs: Light Brown or

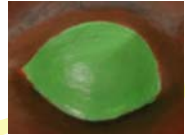
Green

Cats: Yellow or Green

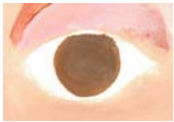
Crocs; Yellow or Green

Snakes: Yellow or Green

Sharks: Dark Blue



## 2: People / Dogs etc. Only



Paint a circle for the iris in the centre of the eyeball, covering about 80% of the eye socket.

Dolphins: Dark Brown

Other animals: Brown

People: Blue, Brown or Green

## 3. Paint the pupil black in the centre of the eye



## 4. Paint a small white dot

Paint a small dot to the left or right of the centre, not in the middle!



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