

# Effect of Composition Variation and Particle Size of a Bristol Glaze

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## 브리스틀釉藥에 있어서의 組成과 粒度の 影響

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(1963. 4. 22 受理)

### Abstract

A study was made of the effect of composition changes and particle size on appearance of raw bristol glazes fired at cones 5, 8, and 11. Alumina and silica, alkali and lime variations were made to get some of the more promising glazes determining maturing ranges, modulus of rupture, and other factors such as gloss, smoothness, opacity, eggshelling, crazing, pinholing and crawling for each glaze. Modulus of rupture was measured for the glazes fired at only cone 11.

### 要 約

브리스틀釉藥을 콘 5, 8, 11 품으로 燒成했을 때 나타나는 狀態에 對한 組成變化와 粒度の 影響을 研究하여, 밝은 半艶消 또는 艶消釉藥을 얻을 수 있었다. 即 各釉藥에 對한 熟成範圍, 曲強度 및 光澤, 平滑性, 乳白度, Eggshelling, 龜裂, Pinholing, Crawling 等에 對한 因子를 決定하므로써 알미나, 珪酸, 알카리, 石灰를 變化시켜 實際 使用 가능한 良好한 釉藥을 얻었다.

製造된 브리스틀釉藥은 最低 콘 5 품부터 11 품 또는 그 以上에서 燒成範圍을 나타냈다. Crawling의 傾向에 있어서는 ZnO 量이 增加될 때 殊히 甚했으나,  $Al_2O_3 : SiO_2$ 의 比가 크고 ZnO 量이 많을 때 乳白度가 顯著하였다. 釉藥의 粒子를 가늘게 하면 熟成이 잘 되나 微粒이면 Crawling이 커진다. 釉藥두께를 增加해도 Crawling 傾向이 커진다.

### I. Introduction

The popularity of lead borosilicate glazes in the whiteware industry is due to the convenient maturing temperature, long maturing range, and good gloss. These advantages have been sufficient to outweigh some of the disadvantages of this type of glaze. The most outstanding of which are the presence of the poisonous lead and characteristic surface imperfections. Attempts to develop leadless glazes have usually met difficulties from the aspects of both fusibility and glaze fit. The effect

of the glaze application and its control has also been the subject of several investigations.

The bristol glaze has been extensively studied and described. The simplest and most systematic approach to the consideration of the composition of this type glaze seems to be by the way of eutectic relationships<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>.

As already seen, fusibility is determined chiefly by the proper balance of fluxes, alumina and silica. The influence of additions of clay upon the fusibility has been largely discussed by Purdy<sup>4</sup> and Hill<sup>5, 6</sup>. Harman and Swift<sup>7</sup> found that strontia increased the fusibility of the glazes and did

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not increase the expansion as much as baria. The use of lithium<sup>8)</sup> has also been reported as beneficial to the strength of glazed ware in some cases. According to Hall<sup>9)</sup> in comparison with calcia and zinc oxide, baria gives a lower elastic constant in all proportions used, but baryta is equivalent to the action of zinc oxide and less effective than the alkalis and calcia with respect to the influence on the coefficient of thermal expansion. McCutchen<sup>10)</sup> observed that substitutions of strontia for other RO members in a glaze composition increased strength of the ware slightly. Thiess<sup>11)</sup> observed that glazes high in feldspar and whiting reduced the strength of glazed ware considerably, whereas glazes high in flint and clay improved ware strength. Knecht<sup>12)</sup> using a sanitary-ware glaze, found that increases of ZnO and flint at the expense of clay, feldspar and whiting resulted in decreased thermal expansion of the glaze. Silica in its amorphous or glassy state has an extremely low coefficient of thermal expansion. Since glazes are essentially glasses, the amount of silica in a glaze composition should decidedly affect the glaze fit and hence the resistance of the glaze to crazing. This result was noted by Thiess<sup>11)</sup> and others. When, however, a glaze contains so much silica that will not enter into the glassy phase during firing, the excess will be present in the fired glaze as high expansion, and crystalline silica will promote poor glaze fit or even crazing in extreme cases.

The fineness of the glaze compositions is apparently also important. Koenig and Henderson<sup>13)</sup> noted that the compressive stress of a glaze increased with finer grinding of the glaze up to an optimum point and then decreased. Mellor<sup>14)</sup> also noted that crazing tendencies were reduced with finer grinding of glazes. The literature on grinding and control of particle size in glaze slips has been reviewed by Parmelee<sup>15)</sup>. There was also been considerable work on the measurement of consistency of ceramic glaze slips<sup>16)</sup>, but little work has been done in correlating this property or other properties of the slip or of the fired glaze film with the measured particle-size distri-

bution of the glaze slip. Various investigators have studied the relation of the extent of grinding to certain glaze defects<sup>17)</sup>, there are other references of interest on glaze preparation and application<sup>18)</sup> and, specifically, on ball-mill grinding<sup>19)</sup>.

In this study a typical Bristol glaze composition was systematically varied both regarding RO constituency and alumina-silica contents. A typical glaze selected from composition variations of a Bristol glaze was used in the investigation on the effect of particle size. They were applied to a porcelain type body. The effect of composition variations and particle size on grinding time and application thickness on appearance for the glazes fired at cones 5, 8, and 11 was observed. In addition to appearance, mechanical strength of the glazed specimens fired at cone 11 was also measured. Maturing ranges were also determined by observation of appearance.

## II. Procedure

A Bristol-type glaze selected for this investigation had the following molecular formula:

.30 KNaO		4.8 SiO <sub>2</sub>
.35 ZnO	.60 Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	.1 B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
.35 CaO		

### (1) Composition variation procedure

(A) **Series 1 : Variation of Alumina-Silica Ratio:** Using the constant RO constituency indicated in the base glaze formula, the alumina-silica contents were varied in Table IA, IB and IC.

(B) **Series 2 : Variation of RO Constituency:** Using the alumina-silica ratio from (Table I) that gave optimum strength results, the RO constituency was varied as follows.

(i) The CaO and ZnO were varied, keeping the KNaO constant. The former was decreased from 0.55 to 0.15 molecular equivalents, whereas the latter was increased from 0.15 to 0.55 molecular equivalents in steps of 0.2 equivalent each as shown in Table IIA.

(ii) The KNaO and CaO were varied keeping ZnO constant. The former was decreased from 0.4 to 0.1 molecular equivalents, whereas the latter was increased from 0.25 to 0.55 mole-

**Table I and Table II**  
Molecular formula by composition  
variations of a bristol glaze

	Glaze Code	KNaO	CaO	ZnO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	SiO <sub>2</sub>	B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Table IA	1	.3	.35	.35	.4	2.0	.1
	2	.3	.35	.35	.4	2.8	.1
	3	.3	.35	.35	.4	3.6	.1
Table IB	4	.3	.35	.35	.4	4.4	.1
	5	.3	.35	.35	.5	2.5	.1
	6	.3	.35	.35	.5	3.5	.1
Table IC	7	.3	.35	.35	.5	4.5	.1
	8	.3	.35	.35	.5	5.5	.1
	9	.3	.35	.35	.6	3.0	.1
Table IIA	10	.3	.35	.35	.6	4.2	.1
	11	.3	.35	.35	.6	5.4	.1
	12	.3	.35	.35	.6	6.6	.1
Table IIB	13	.3	.55	.15	.6	5.4	.1
	14	.3	.35	.35	.6	5.4	.1
	15	.3	.15	.55	.6	5.4	.1
Table IIB	16	.3	.15	.55	.6	3.0	.1
	17	.4	.25	.35	.6	5.4	.1
	18	.3	.35	.35	.6	5.4	.1
Table IIB	19	.2	.45	.35	.6	5.4	.1
	20	.1	.55	.35	.6	5.4	.1

molar equivalents in steps of 0.1 equivalent as shown in Table IIB.

## (2) Body preparation

The body selected for this investigation had the following porcelain-type body compositions. Feldspar, 30%; ball clay, 30%; kaolin, 20%; and flint, 20%. Chemical analyses of these raw materials are shown in Table III.

**Table III** Chemical analyses of raw materials

	Feldspar	Ball Clay	Kaolin	Flint
SiO <sub>2</sub>	66.5	51.7	45.3	99.5
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	18.5	31.2	37.3	—
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	.08	1.17	.61	—
TiO <sub>2</sub>	—	1.7	1.5	—
CaO	.3	.2	.3	—
MgO	Tr.	.5	.2	—
K <sub>2</sub> O	11.8	.36	.1	—
Na <sub>2</sub> O	2.5	.58	.35	—
Ign. Loss	—	12.1	13.4	—
Total	99.68	99.51	99.06	99.5

Body specimens 3/4 in. diameter and 5-1/2 in. long were prepared by dry mixing and vacuum extrusion.

## (3) Glaze preparation and application

All glaze batches were calculated on the basis of the actual chemical analyses of raw materials.

All glaze batches were ball-milled wet for six hours. The specific gravities of all glazes were adjusted to yield an application thickness of 5 to 7 mils when body specimens were dipped in a controlled manner.

Glazes prepared for the alumina-silica and RO variation series were applied to bar specimens.

All glaze batches and glazes on grinding time and the glaze application thickness were controlled in a same manner as the case of composition variations.

## (4) Firing of glazes

All glazed specimens were fired in an electric Globar kiln using a standard heating rate and soaking period at cones 5, 8, and 11. Eight specimens of each glaze body combination plus unglazed specimens were included in each firing.

## (5) Glaze evaluation methods

A standard system was employed in comparing all glazes. A numerical grading method involving gloss, smoothness, opacity, crazing, eggshelling, crawling (Table IV). On the basis of these ratings, fired specimens were classified by appearance into three categories: (1) good appearance, (2) fair appearance, (3) poor appearance.

All specimens were evaluated within 24 hours after removal from the kiln. Delayed crazing was evaluated three weeks later. No glaze that exhibited crazing, either as removed from the kiln or after storage, or appreciable pinholing or crawling was considered as acceptable.

Transverse strengths for both glazed and unglazed bars were determined by means of an Olsen-Boyd mechanical testing machine, and the results were used as the criterion of glaze fit. An arbi-

Table IV Evaluation system for glaze appearance

Gloss	Smoothness	Opacity	Crazing	Eggshelling	Crawling
Excellent (G1)	Excellent (S1)	High Opacity (T4)	None (Z1)	None (E1)	None (C1)
Good (G2)	Good (S2)	Moderate Opacity (T3)	Slight (Z2)	Slight (E2)	Slight (C2)
Fair (G3)	Fair (S3)	Slight Opacity (T2)	Moderate (Z3)	Moderate (E3)	Moderate (C3)
Poor (G4)	Poor (S4)	Transparent (T1)	Severe (Z4)	Severe (E4)	Severe (C4)

trary rating of glaze fit was used in glaze evaluations as follows:

- 1) Good glaze fit: Transverse strength of unglazed body increased.
- 2) Fair glaze fit: Transverse strength of unglazed reduced 20% or less.
- 3) Poor glaze fit: Transverse strength of unglazed body reduced more than 50%.

### III. Results and Discussion

#### (1) Series 1: Alumina-Silica variation

The transverse strength results at cone 11 for the various glazes in this series are shown in Fig. 1.

The strength of the unglazed body was 10,600 lb. per sq. in. at cone 11. Glazes having an alumina-silica ratio of 1:5 were found to be semimat. Glazes having an alumina-silica ratio of 1:9 and 1:11 were found to be crazed moderately and extremely at cone 5. However glazes (7) and (8) having the same ratio and 0.5 equivalent alumina have satisfactory appearance and shown slight and moderate eggshelling. Glazes fired both cone 5 and cone 8 generally have shown slight and moderate eggshelling. The semimat and crazing noticeable both regarding strength and appearance were no doubt caused by the presence of silica in lack of that which could be taken into solution at the lower firing temperature than cone 11. Glaze (9) having an alumina-silica ratio of 1:5 did have satisfactory appearance and fair glaze fit and was an exception. Glazes having an 0.4 equivalent alumina increased the transverse strength as the alumina-silica ratio increased. But its strength did not reach to the unglazed body strength. It showed that they generally were

found to be poor glaze fit. All other glazes in this series were acceptable in appearance, and no outstanding differences in their effects on transverse strength at cone 11 were noted.

On the basis of these results, an alumina-silica ratio of 1:9 with 0.5 and 0.6 equivalent of alumina were selected as representing the optimum.

#### (2) Series 2: Variation in RO constituency

(i) The ZnO was varied from 0.15 to 0.55 molecular equivalents in steps of 0.2 equivalent at the expense of CaO, using the optimum alumina content and the optimum silica content selected from Table I. None of the RO variations used in this investigation significantly altered the transverse strength or appearance of glazed specimens as compared with Series 1.

Glazes of this series increased the opacity with increasing ZnO content up to 0.55 equivalent when fired at cones 8 and 11, but these results were reversely changed when fired at cone five. In addition, they were crazed severely and eggshelled moderately. Glaze (16) showed improperly low transverse strength as compared with any other glazes, but opacified the highest among them. It would appear that the excessive addition of ZnO to a glaze acted as a refractory and imparts whiteness. It would be one reason that glazes having the alumina-silica ratio of 1:5 had been found to be semimat at previous results. The ZnO content necessary to produce opacity, in general becomes less as the alumina and alkaline bases increased. A definite tendency toward crazing was observed at cone five and the alumina-silica ratio of 1:5. The transverse strength was increased by increasing the ZnO content at the expense of CaO, but an increase of ZnO decreased the fusibility at cone 11. It is well known that

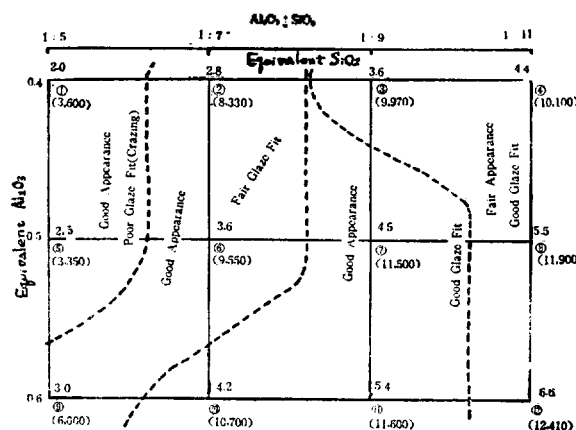


Fig. 1 Effect on transverse strength of varying  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{SiO}_2$  in a Bristol glaze (porcelain type body). Values in parentheses are transverse strength in lb/in<sup>2</sup>.

the CaO reacts with both clay and flint and that ZnO reacts with flint. The CaO is the only component of a Bristol glaze that reacts readily with

clay to form fusible mixture.

(ii) The CaO was varied from 0.25 to 0.55 molecular equivalent in steps of 0.1 equivalent at the expense of KNaO, using optimum alumina and silica contents selected from Table I.

The alkali content decreased the modulus of rupture as compared with the action of the other bases commonly used, though it increased the fluidity of the molten glaze. There is an increase in glassy, transparent fusion, and a tendency to craze at cone 5 with increase in the amount of alkalis. It may be assumed that the glassy phase begins with the melting of the alkaline-alumina-silicates accelerated by the presence of calcium oxide. If a leadless glaze is to maintain good fit, the alkali content should not be above 0.3 molecular equivalent. The CaO content more than 0.45 molecular equivalent yielded glazes of fine crystalline mat texture at cone 5 or lower firing as shown by Danielson and Gordon<sup>20</sup>. In this case the refractoriness of the glaze is increased

Table V. Effect of composition variations of a Bristol glaze on appearance and modulus of rupture

Glaze No.	Cone 5-Gas Kiln	Cone 8-Gas Kiln	Cone 11-Gas Kiln	Cone 11 M of R. P. S. I.	Glaze Fit	Promixing at Cones
1	G3-S1-T1-Z2(Semimat)	G3-S1(Semimat)	G1-S1-T3-Z3-C2	3,600	-66	5, 8, 11
2	G1-S1-T3	G1-S1	G1-S1-T2	8,530	-19.5	5, 8, 11
3	G1-S1-E2-Z3	G1-S1-E2	G1-S1-T2-P2	9,970	-5.94	8, 11
4	G1-S1-E2-Z4	G2-S1-E3-Z4	G1-S1-T2-P2	10,100	-4.72	11
5	G4-S1-T1-Z2(Semimat)	G2-S1-Z3(Semimat)	G1-S1-T3-Z3-C2	3,350	-69.4	5, 8, 11
6	G1-S1-E2-T3	G1-S1-E2	G1-S1-T2	9,550	-9.92	5, 8, 11
7	G1-S1-E2-T3	G1-S1-E2	G1-S1-T2	11,500	+8.49	5, 8, 11
8	G1-S1-E3	G1-S1-E3	G1-S1-T2-E2	11,900	+12.25	11
9	G2-T2-E2	G1-S1	G1-S1-T3	6,000	-43.4	8, 11
10	G2-T2-E3	G1-S1	G1-S1-T2	10,700	-0.95	8, 11
11	G3-T3-E3-Z3	G1-S1-E2	G1-S1-T2	11,600	+9.45	8, 11
12	G3-T2-E3-Z4	G1-S1-E3	G1-S1-T2-E2	12,400	+17.0	8, 11
13	G2-T4-E3-Z4	G1-S1	G1-S1	10,900	+2.83	8, 11
14	G2-T3-E3-Z3	G1-S1-T2-E2	G1-S1-T2	11,100	-4.72	8, 11
15	G2-T3-E3-Z4	G1-S1-T3-E3-Z2	G1-S1-T3	11,800	+11.31	11
16	G2-T2-E3-Z2	G1-S1-T4-E3	G1-S1-T4	3,960	-62.6	11
17	G1-S1-E2-Z4	G1-S1-E2-Z3	G1-S1-T2	9,460	-10.75	8, 11
18	G2-E3	G1-S1-E2	G1-S1-E2-T2	10,500	-0.95	8, 11
19	G2-E3	G1-S1-E3	G1-S1-E2-T2	11,270	+6.32	11
20	G1-S1(Mat)	G2-S2-E4	G1-S1-E2-T2	11,980	+13.02	11

Transverse strength of the unglazed body is 10,600 P. S. I.

Glaze fit shows per cent change compared with unglazed body.

and devitrification with the separation of micro-crystalline structures was observed in glazes of widely different types. This is one of the most commonly used methods of forming the mat texture. The crystals have been identified as anorthite. The fusibility of this series was not effected by the variation of CaO content. An increase of CaO at the expense of KNaO increased the transverse strength at cone 11 and the degree of eggshelling increased gradually at cone 8.

(3) Series 3:

The results of the effect of grinding time and the glaze application thickness are shown in Table VI and Fig. II. An increase in grinding

time up to 18 hours resulted in improved gloss and smoothness, less eggshelling and pinholing, less tendency to craze, and improved mechanical glaze fit except the glazes having 19-20 mils of thickness and grinding period of more than 6 hours which showed severe crawling.

Previous work has provided examples wherein finer grinding of glazes has resulted in improved appearance. Slight differences in the distribution of particle size of the same glaze compositions in one instance were sufficient to make an important difference in the finished glazes. Investigators have also shown that finer milling has given better appearance and certain other benefits in

Table VI. Effect of particle size on grinding time and application thickness of a Bristol glaze

Glaze Application Thickness(Mils)	Defects	Grinding Time				
		3 hrs.	6 hrs.	12 hrs.	18 hrs.	24 hrs.
2 - 3	Gloss	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
	Eggshelling	Moderate	Slight	No	No	Slight
	Crawling	No	No	No	No	No
	Appearance Rating	B	A	A	A	A
	M of R	8,200	8,800	13,340	12,300	9,500
	Glaze Fit	-22.6	-17.0	+25.85	+16.0	-10.4
5 - 6	Gloss	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
	Eggshelling	Slight	No	No	No	No
	Crawling	No	No	No	No	No
	Appearance Rating	A	A	A	A	A
	M of R	9,250	9,800	13,780	12,900	11,400
	Glaze Fit	-12.5	-7.6	+30.0	+21.7	+7.6
10-11	Gloss	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
	Eggshelling	Slight	No	No	No	No
	Crawling	No	No	No	Slight	No
	Appearance Rating	A	A	A	A	A
	M of R	10,150	11,300	12,980	12,000	11,400
	Glaze Fit	-4.25	+6.6	+22.47	+13.2	+7.6
19-20	Gloss	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
	Eggshelling	Slight	Slight	No	No	No
	Crawling	Slight	No	Bad	Bad	Bad
	Appearance Rating	A	A	C	C	C
	M of R	10,000	11,300	11,910	9,700	8,700
	Glaze Fit	-5.65	+6.6	+12.36	-8.5	-17.9



With less viscous glazes, much more complete fusion would be required to obtain a gloss equal to that shown by many of the glazes in these experiments. The high gloss on all members is, no doubt, due to this high surface tension, which results from ultra-viscosity. This may explain why the influence of clay decreasing gloss did not show in the high zinc glazes as much as it did in the high lime glazes. The effect of additions of clay on gloss is not so pronounced in the case of the high feldspar glazes as in those with lower feldspar.

Crazing is due to shrinkage in volume and to surface tension. Strains certainly must arise from this drawing up of the glaze and these can find relief only in the cracking of the glaze. The shrinkage in volume of the mass due to changes in mineral constitution and the volume changes which these newly formed minerals pass through when cooling after having attained rigidity. We consider as being sufficient to account for all the strains necessary to produce crazing. A casual inspection that the craze lines extended through all depths of the glaze but closer inspection failed to disclose any break in their upper surfaces. The increased heat treatment should correct crazing on the upper surfaces of the glaze, and not at the lower surface is no doubt due to their high viscosity which materially decreases the rate at which reactions within the fusing glaze can take place.

With the maximum feldspar, high  $Al_2O_3$  is required to overcome the finely rippled surfaces peculiar to egg shells. These egg shell surfaces are greatly like the surface produced by overfiring softer glazes, and since I find this egg shell finish increasing with increase heat treatment, it may be also said to be due to in this instance to overfiring, but I find this peculiar texture more characteristic of the high feldspar glazes which we know are not as fusible as the glazes of Table IA and IB of series 1 at cone 5.

The particle size in glaze compositions apparently had not significant effect on glaze fit. An increase in the time of grinding resulted in a

tendency to crack after drying and in poor draining properties, which became progressively worse with further reduction in particle size. Before adjusting the glazes with electrolyte, the viscosity and the amount of glaze taken up by a standard specimen increased with longer milling time. An increasing amount of electrolyte was required to adjust the glaze to similar feel with an increase in milling time. An increase in glaze grinding time to the optimum point results in improved gloss and smoothness, less eggshelling, pinholing, less tendency to craze and improved mechanical glaze fit. The excessive grinding of a glaze, however, may promote crawling.

Increasing the thickness of a glaze application exaggerates any crawling or crazing tendencies but increased the modulus of rupture. The optimum grinding treatment and application thickness should be determined and maintained for each glaze used commercially. Ware strength may be improved appreciably by use of a good fitting glaze. Failure to control glaze fineness and application procedures will result in ware of non-uniform quality.

Firing treatment, including such conditions as type of kiln, atmosphere, and rate of heating and cooling, period of soaking, and source of heat influence the character of glaze.

## V. Conclusions

The following conclusions apply to the effect of glaze composition variations as herein investigated for Bristol glazes.

- (1) Bristol glazes offer promise for the production of bright, semimat or mat glazes.
- (2) Promising Bristol glazes may be produced to mature at least as low as cone 5 and up to cone 11 or possibly higher, and then tend to exhibit long maturing range.
- (3) Bristol glazes exhibit a tendency to crawl, particularly with increasing  $ZnO$  content. High  $ZnO$  content is favorable to development of natural opacity in a Bristol glaze as is an increase in the  $Al_2O_3 : SiO_2$  ratio.
- (4) Increased fineness of Bristol glazes tends



to improve the maturing characteristics without significantly altering glaze fit, but excessive grinding of a glaze may promote crawling.

(5) Increasing the thickness of a glaze application exaggerates any crawling or crawling tendencies, but excessive thickness may promote crawling.

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