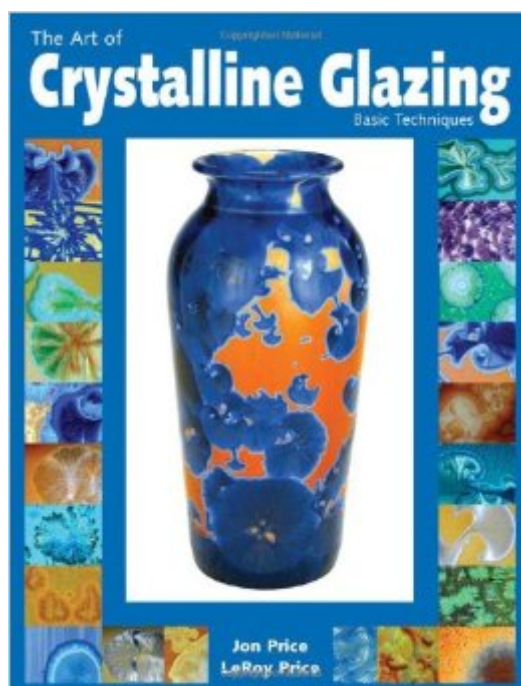


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# The Art Of Crystalline Glazing: Basic Techniques



## Synopsis

Crystalline glazing finally receives the comprehensive treatment it deserves in this unique reference work offering complete directions on how these glazes are compounded, applied and fired. How-to exercises cover every step of producing these stunning glazes and the book includes 55 recipes and a firing schedule for each. All glazes are thoroughly explained so artists can easily duplicate them. Detailed instructions show artisans how to alter the number and size of crystals and select the proper clay body. Also included is a thorough discussion of low-fire glazes, frit making, the fundamentals of secondary crystals and troubleshooting tips to help prevent or correct problems.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Yes, this book is full of beautiful pictures to drool over. After an hour or so of taking in the photos, you may begin to notice there's words and stuff around the photos. Words about the importance of maintaining consistent clay body chemistry when fine-tuning your glaze recipes and firing programs, how to protect your kiln from the caustic "runny" glazes that will ooze right off the bottom of the work, and so forth. What particularly impressed me as I paid more attention to the words was the author's emphasis on systematic experimentation. There are a lot of variables that affect the formation of zinc oxide crystals, or even whether you'll get any crystal formation at all. So, from the very start you're going to have to run a series of controlled tests to find the "sweet spot" for crystal formation in your kiln, on your particular clay body chemistry, for a particular glaze recipe and firing program. Once you've dialed that in, you can tweak individual parts of the system (glaze formulation, glaze application and thickness, firing program) to alter your baseline crystal glaze. The

authors provide detailed recipes and firing programs as well as notes on directions the reader can explore through further experimentation to develop your own unique signature glazes.

As a pottery lover but not maker, I fell in love with crystalline glazing years ago but didn't know what it was called. I recently bought a crystalline-glazed bowl and went on a quest for a book on the subject. This is a spectacularly gorgeous book! I practically have to wear a bib to keep from drooling over the pictures. I was so pleasantly surprised that it arrived signed! The sharp, plentiful color images really illustrate what is possible with different glazes and temperatures. The fact that one author is an intuitive and experimental ceramic artist and the other is a detail-oriented physicist who meticulously recorded the results of experiments makes this book a gem for everyone. I bought this book for the images, but now I'm thinking of finding a ceramic studio where I can try out this visually exciting technique.

The authors have provided a step by step process to understanding crystal glazing. Humorous and instructive, every page is a learning experience and each of the many exercises will add skills to your hobby or business practice of ceramics. While you are picking up great tips and tricks, you get to know the authors and understand what working together, through often different paths, can do to arrive at a common goal. Excellent concept that is well executed. Other books out there are good, but this one is all encompassing. Start here.

Price and Price contribute to the literature by providing the reader with needed advice on how to mix glazes, and schedules to fire them with. In fact, the best part of the book is providing the reader with numerous firing schedules and explaining how to use them. I also like their discussion on how to incorporate gum into the glaze solution so that the glaze does not craze. At the same time, I was dissatisfied when I realized that I would not be able to replicate their glazes because most of the glazes that are featured in the book in their illustrations are for cone 11, a temperature that my kiln does not reach. Perhaps because of this, their most beautiful glazes (nickel blue on yellow) did not work in my kiln. That was a disappointment, but I have used recipes from other books with Price and Price's firing schedules and advice. For this reason, I find that the book does not stand alone but must be used with Creber, Shimbo, and other authors.

I have found this book to be the most useful book on Crystalline glazes. Having said that - I have not been able to replicate a single glaze from the formulas, firing schedules, etc... I think one has to

experiment and develop their own results.

I have never seen a book that is more comprehensive and better organized!!! For anyone wanting to begin crystalline glazing, this book is perfect. The pictures of the glazed pieces in the book include all the information for the piece - clay body, glaze recipe, firing schedule - amazing! You can see the research scientist of the one author and the ceramic artist of the other on every page. I wish all pottery books were so informative!

This book is all I hoped for to be a guideline to crystalline glazing. It works you step by step through the process of crystalline glazing, many good tips, easy to read, even if English is not your language. Great pictures, they make you want to start trying.

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