

## Making and Applying Terra Sigillata

1. In a glass jar mix together 2800 ml *distilled* water and 6.5 ml Sodium Silicate. Blunge these together with a stick blender.
2. Next sift in 1200 grams clay (I use C-Red or Redart) and blunge with the stick blender for 45 seconds, or until well mixed.
3. Let the glass jar sit undisturbed for 72 hours. You should start to see layers separating out after a day or so. I typically only get two really distinct layers and then a thin film of clear water on the surface.
4. Siphon off everything above the sludge layer on the bottom of the glass jar.
5. Simmer the siphoned layer on the stovetop until you reach a specific gravity of between 1.15 and 1.18. This means that 100ml of terra sig will weigh between 115 and 118 grams. I have a plastic graduated cylinder that I bring home with me when I simmer my sig and periodically weigh out 100 ml. This can take a long time (2 hours or so) and usually means you end up with about 1/3 of a gallon of sig in the end. But, the trade off is that you get a sig that requires no burnishing, which is a gift!
6. Apply terra sig to bone dry clay for the best results. For an especially shiny surface, ensure the clay surface you apply to is as smooth as possible. Apply three coats, but be careful not to go too thick – I've had sig get fine cracks if I apply too much. Sig seems more likely to crack over paper clay patch jobs, so use extra care over repairs.

For more info on mixing terra sig, see my video on YouTube! Check it out at: [http://youtu.be/s\\_1fhFL6zgw](http://youtu.be/s_1fhFL6zgw)

