



Raku Firing Notes

This is a reminder sheet for anyone who has attended a Raku workshop at West Street Potters. Please note this information sheet is a guide and you will need more practice before you go solo.

1. Make sure site is clear (rake away any leaves). Hair tied back, wear stout foot ware and cover arms long sleeves.
1. Roll out kiln from store align each ring.
2. Wheel down Raku trolley for main building
3. Rope off area using cones and hazard tape found in trolley cone located by Raku shed.
4. Set up burners tighten bolts so they are secure. making sure hose has clear path to gas bottles.
5. Lift off gas bottle guard, there should be three 12kg bottles check all bottles are turned off.
6. Remove the safety cape from bottle and attached the burner hose anti clock wise tighten finger tight then use spanner to make sure it is nice and tight.
7. Check with water and washing up liquid or gas detector spray in trolley.
8. Set up 3 saw dust bins
9. 1 or 2 water buckets (metal)
10. Start packing from base using three 3" props to establish the first shelf.

N.B. Work should have been glazed days before giving it time to dry out thoroughly. There is always a risk if you fire freshly glazed work and the process takes longer and work is more vulnerable. Carry on packing align your props as you go.

11. Remember the copper turquoise melts before the white crackle so have an example of each visible on the top shelf so you can assess glaze maturity flat and shiny and a bright cherry glow.
12. When packing leave a 1.5 cm gap between work to allow for when the glaze bubbles.
13. Once kiln is packed inset the thermocouple and attach lead to pyrometer and switch on green button, the current temperature should show on the LED display.
14. You can now light the kiln. Always keep the lid off at this point and follow Northern Kilns lighting procedure

15. When the burners are lite, the flames should be orange, loose, wavy and at low pressure. Position lid on top, allow 20 mins for the kiln to warm up. You can feel over the flue vent on the lid the moist air leaving the kiln.
16. Take it steady until 500-600°C
17. Turning up at intervals of 20mins, a quarter turn. Look at the flame and listen to sound of the gas all valuable information make notes, checking pyro reading and marking chart as a guide.
18. The Pyrometer will read 100°C before the work and glazes are fully matured make a visual check standing well back and using welding goggles.
19. Remember the glaze will look bubbly and then melt out to a shiny cherry colour. Now it's time to take out work.
20. Your sawdust team should be ready with all the safety gear.
21. Turn off burners or depending on the no. off layers turn them burners down low.
22. 1Remove lid to a safe location. With tongs remove work putting it into the dust bins lined with saw dust, layering up work and sawdust.

N.B. the glaze is molten so watch out for works sticking together, glass like threads, continue until all work is remove. Cover bins with lids and leave for 20 mins + then work can be removed quenched in water or left to cool in the slowly. Monitor any embers you don't want a fire! Once work is cool clean up with scouring pads.

23. Turn off main gas bottle and close all burner tapes.

RAKU BURNER
QUICK START GUIDE
 GAS BOTTLE CONNECTION

NORTHERN KILNS



Turn tap to OFF (clockwise)



Turn yellow isolator to ON

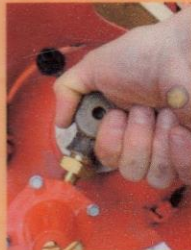


Unscrew the regulator out as far as possible (anti-clockwise)



Assemble gas connection to bottle. Note: thread tightens anti clockwise. Check for gas leaks.

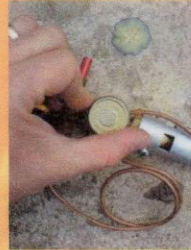
BURNER LIGHTING



Turn gas supply ON.



Turn pressure gauge to approximately 1-3 PSI for lighting



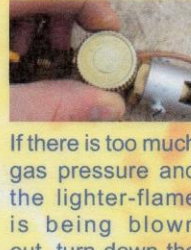
Open burner tap less than 1/4 turn.



Ignite lighting device and hold near burner tip. Press flame failure starter button to let gas through



Once the flame is lit, keep the flame failure button depressed for 30 seconds



If there is too much gas pressure and the lighter-flame is being blown out, turn down the burner tap a little (clockwise.)

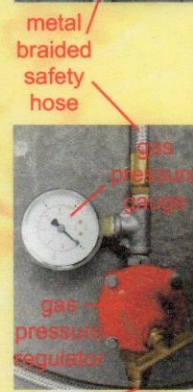
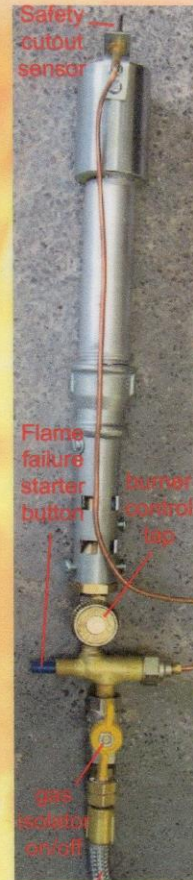


Once the flame is lit, turn the burner tap fully ON



Gas pressure can be adjusted to suit your firing 2 - 10 PSI is about normal.

Always check the burner after winter storage. If unsure DO NOT PROCEED.



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 longer to last longer