



# Painting Technique: Banding (Expert)

## SUPPLIES:

Banding Wheel  
Large Fan Brush

## PAINT COLORS

Dark Color  
Light Color



Banding color can be fun and frustrating. With practice it can yield very professional looking artwork. The key is practice, practice, practice!

It's important to have the right tools for the job, a banding wheel and good brushes are essential. A banding wheel is very different than decorating wheel. You will find it impossible to do this technique on a decorating wheel. A banding wheel has height for your hand to fit to allow your project rotate smoothly (Banding wheels are available at You're Fired Studios). It's all about the motion of the wheel and the steadiness of your hand.

1. Wipe off bisque with a wet sponge to remove dust. This also makes your pottery more receptive to paint.

2. Center your project on the banding wheel. This can be tricky but it's an important step.

Place your plate in the center and look under it at the edge of wheel. Slowly turn the wheel to see if distance is equal on all sides. If not, find the widest gap and slide plate half the distance. Repeat this again, further halving the widest distance.

3. Leave plate in this centered position for the whole banding process.

# Painting Technique: Banding

4. Place your hand under banding wheel, walk your index and middle fingers on stem counter clockwise if you are right handed. Clockwise if you are left handed. This may take practice but the idea is to create a smooth, consistent motion. If the wheel speeds up or slows down, this will create a bobble application of paint.
5. Choose two contrasting colors, one light and one dark. Dilute the lighter color with water 50/50. Bisque is very porous and the brush has a long way to travel. The water allows the brush to flow around the rim. It's better to have the thin color and build it up with multiple layers of banding. It's very difficult, if not impossible to band if the color is too thick.
6. Using a soft fan brush, load with color.
7. The wheel must be moving before you start painting and it must be moving when you stop painting.
8. To add the light color on the rim:
  - Your arm that holds the brush must be fixed in position a little above the plate. With the wheel in motion, lower your hand down onto the plate like a record player arm.
  - Do not move your arm
  - Do not move the brush towards you.
  - Do not move your eyes from your brush.
  - When nothing more seems to be happening, lift your arm away.
  - Apply 2 or 3 coats. Let dry in between coats.
9. To add the dark color in center of plate
  - Using same fan brush, same paint/ water mixture.
  - Begin moving wheel and place your arm along inside of rim where light color stopped. Move your hand towards center of plate
  - The dark color will gradually become lighter towards center as color runs out. Apply 2-3 coats.

Congratulations, you are done!

**Visit a You're Fired Studio to apply this technique.**