



Sio-2® COLORPLUS coloured natural air-drying clay

Description and properties

Coloured natural air-drying clay. No firing is necessary. After drying, it achieves hardness, strength and solidity of fired ceramics ("**cold ceramics**").

It is available in **12 bright colours**: white, yellow, orange, rose, red, brown, light green, green, light blue, blue, lilac and black. The colours **can be mixed**; therefore unlimited shades of colour can be easily obtained.

It comes in **3 sizes**: 75g, 500g and 1.5kg. The format of 75g, available in all the colours, is ideal for painting small objects and for mixing to obtain various colours. It comes in boxes of 36 units of each colour and in practical box assortment of 6 and 12 colours. The formats of 500g and 1.5kg are available in 6 colours (white, yellow, red, green, blue and black) and are more economical for professional use or at school.

It is very adequate material for development of creative and perception skills (**plastic expression**). Suitable for children (from 3 years old) but especially, it is **an unique material, ideal for handicrafts and professional creative arts, because it can be used as a substitute of classic ceramics ("**cold ceramics**")**. It is also suitable material for in-house decoration ("**home-déco**").

This clay has very good plasticity for modelling. Its natural clay components provides an **excellent plasticity** to the modelled item and the presence of natural fibers of cellulose allows a **secure drying**, free of cracks and fissures, even with large pieces.

At touch, it has **smooth and fine texture**. It allows modelling **very fine details**.

It can be moulded and, most of all, it **can be thrown on a potter's wheel**.

It is easily cleaned with water and a cloth. Any rest of the product is easily removed from all surfaces and furniture with a humid cloth.

It does not smell.

Once dry, the clay can be **painted or varnished** with any type of paint or varnish. It can be also polished, carved or drilled.

The product is conforms to the European regulation **EN-71** and to USA regulation (seal **AP non toxic product**).

The clay remains unalterable in its original packaging for a minimum period of two years.

Comparative features

Compared to natural pottery clays, **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** is available in nice and bright colours and does not need firing. Once dry, the item becomes very solid and hard and can be decorated or varnished. The clay allows creating objects with difficult drying, free of cracks and fissures while drying.

Compared to the natural clay **Sio-2 PLUS®**, the clay **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** displays brighter colours and more wide range of colours (12). The white colour of **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** is a pure white, which allows obtaining, when mixed with others colours, unlimited shades of lively and bright colours. Once finished, the piece is more solid and hard, which is the reason why this clay is more suitable for handicrafts and professional creative arts.

Compared to the other air-drying clays, **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** is composed of natural minerals and clays with plasticity noticeable at touch, but especially, recognizable by the lack of aggressive smell, typical for the synthetic clays. As opposed to the other commercial clays, the **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** can be thrown on a potter's wheel and guarantees a long-lasting and solid result after drying ("**cold ceramics**"). It is ideal for interior decoration ("**home déco**").



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General information and how to use it

HOW TO USE IT

- It is recommended kneading the clay **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** before starting working with it.
 - If during the modelling the clay loses its plasticity, it is enough to slightly wet your hands.
 - The clay is easy to model using adequate modelling tools (we recommend the **pottery tool kit Sio-2®**. It can also be moulded (we recommend plaster's moulds) and thrown in a potter's wheel.
 - The colours are easily mixed by hand.
 - In case of using separate colours for the same item, it is better to wash hands after the use of each color.
 - To seal two different pieces of clay, mark them with a spatula or a die and then moisten them with slurry (clay mixed previously with water until a liquid texture is obtained) using a paintbrush. When pieces are united to form an angle, in order to glue them, it is better to make a noodle of clay following the angle, then press and define the angle with a spatula.
 - To seal two already dry pieces conventional glue can be used. It is not recommended to glue a dry piece to a wet one because the glue will not hold due to the shrinkage of the humid piece during drying.
 - To smooth and polish surfaces use a wet sponge for obtaining a clean finish.
 - Best results are obtained on very thin walls or solidified objects.
 - For modelling hollow items, flexible or rigid supports can be used.
- ⚠ If the clay is used over inside rigid surfaces (of metal, plastic or wood), it is recommended to cover the surface with a sheet of paper or fabric to help the shrinkage of the clay when drying and avoid the appearance of cracks and fissures.

HOW TO PRESERVE IT

- Once the container is opened, the clay **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** needs to be wrapped in plastic in order to be preserved.
 - Since it contains a minimum of humidity, it can be recovered by wrapping it in a humid cloth.
 - During work interruptions, cover the item with a plastic or a humid cloth.
- ⚠ Keep the clay in a cool place and avoid high temperatures. Do not store at temperatures lower than 0°C (32 F). If freezes, it loses its properties.

DRYING

- Once finished, leave the item to dry in a uniform way, avoiding sources of direct heat and air currents. Longer drying time allows avoiding the appearance of cracks and fissures on the bigger pieces.
 - For very large or solidified pieces, it is recommended to slow down the drying, by covering the item with plastic while leaving a small opening, in order to slow the evacuation of the humidity.
 - Pieces that are completely flat should be dried leaving on top a flat weight. It will avoid that the piece bends or cracks from inside, which occurs when drying fast.
 - Hardness and maximum solidity are obtained after 2 to 5 days drying at room temperature.
 - Hardness can be reinforced additionally, by completing the drying in domestic oven at temperatures between 100°C and 110°C (180-200°F).
- ⚠ During drying, the clay **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** shrinks. The more water contains the clay, greater is its shrinkage while drying. For modelling very large pieces or objects with difficult drying, it is recommended to first leave the clay to dry for a while and then homogenize it by kneading it.

FINISHING AND DECORATION

- Once dry, the item can be polished, carved or drilled, before being painted.
 - It can be decorated with any type of paint, with pencil or marker.
 - Since the surface is not porous, a single layer of painting is enough to obtain all the brightness of the colour.
 - It can also be varnished. The use of the varnish is recommended to highlight the clay colour. Using varnish ensures greater durability and allows easier cleaning.
- ⚠ The clay **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** is not water-resistant. It should not be use for items which will contain water, unless they are protected with waterproof product.

**Sio-2® COLORPLUS** coloured natural air-drying clay**FAQ's****How much time takes the clay Sio-2® COLORPLUS to dry?**

The clay **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** is composed of natural clays and minerals. Therefore, the drying time is the same as the one of the other natural pottery clays, and will depend on the item size, on its shape and on the environmental drying conditions (especially temperature and ventilation).

The majority of the commercial modelling clays are synthetic and advertise quick drying, but in reality, the complete drying is not achieved before few weeks. This is due to the presence of chemical plasticizers.

Why the clay Sio-2® COLORPLUS stains the hands during modelling?

Just like any other natural clay, the clay **Sio-2® COLORPLUS** stains the hands while modelling. Nevertheless, it is more visible because the colours are a lot brighter. The colours come from organic pigments of very small size and are washed easily with water.

Synthetic clays, such as oil based modelling clays and plasticines, do not stain, because the pigments are chemically incorporated in the matrix of the product.

Is the higher price of the air-drying clay Sio-2® COLORPLUS justified, when compared to the price of pottery clay?

The properties of air-drying clay justify its higher cost. In fact, an item modelled with conventional pottery clay is perishable (breaks easily with the time) and needs to be fired in a kiln at 1000°C (1832°F, cone 06). Therefore, the overall cost will be higher than using air-drying clay.

Safety regulation

Material Safety Data Sheet is available upon demand.

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