

~ FABRICATION ~



CERAMICS

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS



CERAMICS

INTRODUCING

the



FIXED BLUNGER



Fixed Blunger. Manufacturer - Gladstone Ltd

Access Level 2 (see Ceramics Workshop induction Guide on Access Levels)

13amp Fixed Blunger with 240 volt motor positioned on top of blunger

Clay, water and sodium silicate are introduced into the barrel through a small hinged lid positioned top-front of the blunger. The materials are processed into casting slip by slow rotating paddles inside the blunger. There is a draining tap at the bottom-front of the blunger to drain the casting slip

PPE Basic

- Suitable work-coat (provided)
- Eye protection, rated to BS/EN166 (provided)

What to do before use

- **INFORM** a member of staff **BEFORE** operating the machine.
- **VISUALLY** check the machine for signs of damage
- **VISUALLY** check the electrical cable for signs of damage
- **(IF STUDENT) IMMEDIATELY** report **ANY** faults to the technical team
- **(IF STAFF) E-mail** technical team to report if machine requires maintenance or servicing, indicating whether the machine is to be taken out of operation and for how long
- **MAKE SURE** the machine is on a stable, secure surface **BEFORE** operating

How to Use This Fixed Blunger

- Plug the machine into a 13amp socket and switch it **ON**, making sure your hands are **DRY**
- Press the **GREEN ON** button on the control panel to start the motor
- **DO NOT** wear gloves at this machine

- **When the paddles start to rotate inside the barrel, SLOWLY introduce the clay materials through the open hinged lid positioned at the top and front of the blunger mechanism**
- **IMMEDIATELY close the hinged lid after the required amount of materials have been introduced into the barrel of the blunger**
- **RUN the blunger for at least half an hour to an hour of operation STOP the blunger and turn the draining tap to the ON position. If the tap is blocked with dried casting slip, un-block it with a WET potter's knife OR a piece of Steel wire**
- **Drain the slip THROUGH a sieve into a measuring jug**
- **Measure a LITRE of slip in the jug and WEIGH it to determine the fluidity of the slip. If the slip is of the CORRECT FLUIDITY, it can be used as CASTING slip. If the slip needs altering, it can be adjusted by the addition of the appropriate amounts of materials – your instructor can HELP YOU determine how best to do this**
- **A CASTING SLIP improves with the stirring action of a blunger, so it is GOOD PRACTICE to keep it running for some time then let the motor cool BEFORE continuing to operate the blunger.**
- **Press the RED button on the control facia to switch the blunger OFF**
- **CAREFULLY drain the required amount of slip using the draining tap**
- **Un-plug the 13amp plug from the wall mounted electrical socket, isolating the machine**
- **If any SPILLAGES have occurred on the outside of the blunger, CLEAN the surfaces with a DAMP sponge – use NO chemicals**

Date

I verify that I have read and understood the information detailed within this document

Name

Signature