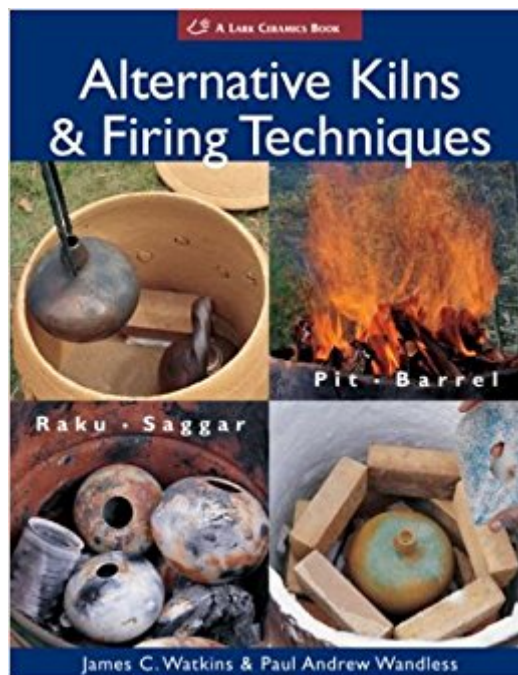




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Alternative Kilns & Firing Techniques: Raku * Saggar * Pit * Barrel (A Lark Ceramics Book)



Synopsis

Ceramicists searching for new ways to fire their creations now have a wealth of options. Authors James Watkins and Paul Wandless, along with a group of distinguished artisans, demonstrate in detail how to build low-cost, low-tech, yet high-quality kilns. These clever devices make it possible to produce rich surface effects from alternative reduction firing techniques. In addition to showing the basic procedures for using each kiln, easy-to-follow directions for many fast-fire methods unfold in color photographs: you'll see how to achieve terra sigillata surfaces with direct chemical application, and how to do traditional crackle-glaze raku and smoke finishes.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (102 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I got a few ideas from reading this book, but I think if I were a beginner this would be enough information to be dangerous, but not enough to fire effectively. For example, for firing with ferric chloride, there is no mention that breathing fumes during firing can cause injury or death. Proper respirators, eye protection, and gloves can make this a fun and effective firing method. Ignorance of safety issues can make this your final firing. Or just blind you or give you respiratory problems for life. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14513891> <http://www.sciencelab.com/msds.php?msdsId=9924033> I hesitate to rate this two stars, because there is some good information in here. However there are some key details missing that are pretty important in my opinion that drop the rating. On the plus side, there are some good photos of pots, and a good quantity of artists' techniques which

is interesting. It presents itself as an authoritative tome of alternative firing techniques. I think it is more accurate to say the author asked different artists about their process, and presented each one's methods as a separate category, rather than distill the methods into instructions with details on how differing methods produce different results. There is not a whole lot of information in this book that is not easily obtained with a web search. Each type of firing is a few pages, going for quantity of techniques over quality of instruction and details. The writing is decent, but light on details. Kiln building is a weak point of the content. No details are given on quantity of materials to calculate what to purchase to build a kiln. Quantity of bricks vs. square feet of kiln space, how much chicken wire and fiber blanket?

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