

Creating a Thin Dark Line Between Soap Layers Using Lily Stamens to Colour Soap

Here's a cube shaped soap I made using the yellow stamens I collected from my lilies in the garden. I snipped them off the bloom and steeped them in a vegetable oil then after a couple of weeks I strained them through cloth.

It's a nice fresh lemon yellow but will it last ??? I'll put a couple of bars away and check on them occasionally then report back.

I also wanted to make 'cube' shaped soaps. I think cubes look cool even classy.

The soaps are on the large size they weigh in at approximately 190g that's 6.7 oz block. I could cut it down in size but I would lose the cube effect and I like this size.

Some may think that cube soaps are not comfortable in the hand when showering, but not everyone rubs the soap over their body when showering. My wife is one of those people, she rubs the soap onto her natural sea sponge or face washer first. She said the cube felt comfortable in her hand.



I also used titanium dioxide, maybe without it the soap would have been a darker yellow. I was mainly testing it to see if the caustic soda would change it to brown, it didn't 😊

The blue/green line is a mix of light bright green mica with a dash of blue ultramarine to make it a bit darker green. I keep it in small round plastic containers with a piece of 'panty hose' stretched across the top and held in place with a rubber band. I turn it upside down over the soap and tap the plastic container with a teaspoon and the fine mica mix floats out onto the surface of the soap.

With this soap I poured the white layer first, waited till it firmed up a bit then using a teaspoon I scooped it up into peaks and hollows, that's so I could get a wavy line as opposed the straight dark lines other soapers have been doing. It gives it movement I think.

I then pushed in the dividers then sprinkled with the mica. I thought doing it this way it would give a cleaner line on the sides rather than dragging it down with the dividers. the jury is still out on that one ??? Sometimes I like the 'dragged down' look though, it gives the bar yet another style. 🍷

Let the first layer set a little firmer then pour the other half of the batch on top of the dividers moving the bowl back and forth to achieve an even spread. You can always spoon some out and put into any that are not as full. Voila!!!

Don't make the mica layer too thick or the soap can separate after curing. You can use ultramarine, oxides, charcoal or coloured clays on their own. The layer always turns out much darker than the actual mica colour.

I'm using the 'Nizzy' divider mould box similar to these.



Here you can see two mould boxes half filled with the first layer of soap and sprinkled with mica. The soap is still soft but will hold the peaks when lifted with a teaspoon. I use a scooping movement, dip the spoon into the mix and sort of scoop it back. If the mix is too thin it will self level so you need to wait till the mix is thick enough to form the soft peaks.



The second layer of soap is poured and the top textured. If you like this technique for your soap, I normally press the dividers into the mould box at this stage.

You can imagine the dividers pushing through the mix then pulling the layer of mica downwards. This creates a drag mark on the sides of the soaps and you need to lightly scrape them to show the clean line of the mica.



This is the finished coral mica soap. There was some clean up work done on the sides of the bars, I use an extremely sharp vegetable paring knife to lightly scrape off the 'dragged down' mica.



This is the finished blue mica soap with a pearl mica brushed on the top.



Both these batches had the sides of the bars cleaned down to show clean coloured thin lines. It can be time consuming but I don't sell soap so I have the time to play 🎮

I make up these small sieves to dust the mica onto the soap. They are round plastic containers with a piece of 'panty hose' stretched across the top and held in place with a rubber band. I turn it upside down over the soap and tap the plastic container with a teaspoon and the fine mica mix floats out onto the surface of the soap.



Technique Used To Create Thin Dark Line of The Cube Shaped Soaps.

The cube soaps at the beginning were done differently. Here is the sequence.

1. Pour the first layer and let it thicken up.
2. Using the teaspoon make the soft peaks, they don't need to have points on them, your aiming at making hollows in the soap so the mica will lay in the hollows and then also on the peaks to give a 'Wave' like appearance.
3. Insert the dividers.
4. Now sprinkle the mica onto the soap while the dividers are in position, try to let it fall close the sides of the dividers as this will be the side you will see when unmoulded. Don't be too heavy with the mica. The layers can separate.
5. Now pour the second layer onto the sprinkled mica. I left the top layer of the cube shaped soaps smooth.

There may be minor cleaning up of the sides and after you do it the first time you will get a better idea of how it works.

