



Liquid Luster for ceramic and glass LU N 34 SILVER IRIS H

1 General Information

LU 34 SILVER IRIS H is a liquid luster for brush application on ceramic and glass. After firing the luster shows and iridescent iris metal effect. The intensity of the effect is strongly related to the layer thickness of the material. Lusters are generally very layer sensitive, means its colour intensity is also influenced by the deposit of the material.

For a nice shiny luster effect, the luster needs to be applied on a smooth surface. Lusters are typically used on glazed ceramic substrates like porcelain pieces or tiles or on glass items, from soda lime glasses to lead crystal. The layer thickness of a luster decoration is below 0,1 µm.

2 Standard Firing Range

Substrate	Firing range
Glass	480 – 630°C
Ceramic (e.g. porcelain, tiles)	700 – 850°C

The firing result depends on the firing temperature, the soak time and the total cycle of the firing as well as on the type of substrate. For an optimal firing result we recommend pre-tests under the users own individual conditions.

3 Properties of lusters

The major characteristics of a Heraeus luster is determined by its production recipe. From each lot produced, we take a sample and check defined characteristics.

In case of liquid luster we check the brushing characteristics and the colour shade of the specific luster comparing it against a defined standard. Controlling each single production lot assures the highest product quality and lot-to-lot stability.



3.1 Processing

We deliver LU 34 SILVER IRIS H ready to use for the application by brush.

In case that the luster should be sprayed thinning is required. We recommend using our special thinner V18 H. The thinning ratio will depend on your specific needs. It is necessary to test the material under ones own individual conditions. Starting point could be a thinning of about 20-40% by weight.

3.2 Storage

Liquid lusters are subject to an ageing process. We recommend using LU 34 SILVER IRIS H within 9 months time. The material should be stored at room temperature (20°C). Cool storage – but no freezing – has a positive impact on the shelf life.

3.3 Consumption

The material consumption depends on the thickness of the applied precious metal layer. Under our conditions,

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the consumption is approx. 0,15 to 0,30g/100 cm².

4 Properties of finished decorations

The main properties of fired luster decorations comprise brilliance, colour intensity as well as chemical and mechanical resistance.

Being extremely thin layers of less than 0,1 µm, luster decorations generally do not achieve the same chemical and mechanical resistance level as bright gold/platinum decorations. Their strength is laying in their artistical level, their special iridicent and metal colour effects.

4.1 Chemical resistance

Luster decorations typically do not achieve levels of chemical resistance which distinguish them to be judged as dishwasher durable. This statement is also true for LU 34 SILVER IRIS H.

4.2 Mechanical resistance

Luster decorations are comparably sensitive to scratching. Still luster decorations are regularly used for example for tile decoration.

LU 34 SILVER IRIS H achieves a mechanical resistance within the boundaries of the product group of lusters.

4.3 Oxidation resistance

LU 34 SILVER IRIS H does not contain silver. Therefore fired decorations do not tarnish.

5 Application recommendations

5.1 Preparation for the decoration

Work in a well-ventilated room. Good printing conditions occur at a room temperature of 20 to 25°C.

Make sure that the surface of the object to be decorated is clean and dry. Dust, fingerprints and water condensation can affect the decoration while firing.

Take care that the object to be decorated is not taken from a cold store into a warm shop. A fine condensation film may occur, which is not visible for the naked eye. Result: Firing disturbance (pinholes) in the fired precious metal decoration! Allow enough time for the substrate to adjust to the decoration room temperature.

5.2 Miscability of lusters

Lustres can be mixed with each other. However, unpredictable colour changes may occur, especially if lustres containing precious metals are mixed with lustres free of precious metals.

5.3 Application of the material

Do not shake the luster prior to use.

Draw from the bottle only as much as you can consume within 15 or 30 minutes and close the bottle. Consider that the solvent continuously evaporates in air and therefore the viscosity slowly increases.

Apply the luster in a moderate layer thickness onto the object to be decorated. The material deposit will have a strong influence onto the achieved colour intensity and the iridicent effect.

In case the luster should be sprayed, the material needs to be thinned before spraying. We recommend to use our special luster thinner V18 H. Pre-test under ones own individual conditions are necessary.

Some general hints to the spraying conditions:

- for small objects we recommend the usage of a 0,2-0,4mm nozzle and a spraying pressure of about 3,0 bar / 43,5 psi.

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- For larger objects we recommend the usage of a 0,8-1,0mm nozzle and a spraying pressure of about 3,5 bar / 50,8 psi.
- The optimal distance for the spaying needs to be determined in own tests. It is important that a smooth layer is achieved on the object, while at the same time minimizing the material loss in the spraying process.
- When applying lusters on tiles, the tile glaze might influence the colour impression of the luster decoration significantly.

5.3 Firing

During the first heating phase the organic components of the preparation burn off. This process is completed at approx. 400°C. The gold film is formed. A constant, slow temperature increase, enough oxygen and sufficient ventilation are decisive for the quality of the fired precious metal decoration.

The firing profile considerably influences the mechanical and chemical properties of the fired decoration.

The rate of cooling has no major influence on the quality of the gold decoration, unlike the firing temperature and soak time. However, the firing process should not be stopped too abruptly after the soak time. If the rate of cooling is too fast, there may be a danger of damaging the article.

6.0 Typical defects, root causes and countermeasures

Defect	Possible Cause	Counter measure
Blurred contours, lustre runs.	Too much thinner was used.	Leave the bottle open for a while, so that some of the solvent can escape.
	The thinner was too fat or too slow drying.	Leave the bottle open for a while, so that some of the solvent can escape. Use quick drying thinner.
	Concentration of organic vapours in kiln too high.	Decrease kiln stacking and/or increase kiln ventilation.
Lustre is difficult to apply.	Viscosity is too high after long application or long storage	Thin lustre with V 35 or V 18.
Spots, firing faults.	Objects were soiled by dust, finger marks or water drops.	Clean the object before decorating.
	Problems in the kiln such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing atmosphere in kiln insufficient ventilation heat increase is too fast during critical phase between 200-400°C too many objects in the kiln 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase air addition improve ventilation reduce the heating speed reduce the number of objects in the kiln
Lustre flakes off after firing.	Applied layer is too thick.	Reduce the applied layer of the lustre.
	Applied layer is too thin.	Increase the applied layer of the lustre.
Low mechanical resistance of the lustre decoration	Firing temperature is too low.	Increase firing temperature.
Contour lines are blurred after lustre has been fired (decoration runs).	Too many objects in kiln.	Reduce the number of objects in the kiln.
Fine pinholes.	Pinholes can be caused by moisture on the surface of the objects to be decorated. For example, condensation occurs when the ware is brought from a cold store into the warmer workshop.	Give the ware enough time to adjust to the temperature of the workshop and so allow the possible condensation film to evaporate.