



15 Benefits of Electric Production Kilns

As a manufacturer of quality electric kilns, we have an obvious bias on the issue of production kilns. Many ceramic studios have traditionally favored large shuttle or front-loading kilns because of their greater capacities and supposed economies of scale. Depending on the nature of your production work, we believe there is an excellent case for numerous smaller electric kilns, especially when one considers their flexibility, limited risk, faster turnaround, ease and cost of repair, and greater control. Here are fifteen benefits:

FLEXIBILITY

1. Firing smaller batches. Having the option to run small batches is very handy for testing, touch-ups, order add-ons, or just small jobs like trim. These firings are not economically feasible in a larger kiln.
2. Firing diverse batches. Often you will find it necessary to fire glazes with different firing temperatures, or two glazes that tend to migrate. With smaller kilns, you can fire in two separate kilns and still have all the work ready on time.
3. Ease of scheduling. With multiple kilns, you gain so much more freedom of scheduling. You can load them all at once, as you would a larger kiln, and fire them all at the same time, or you can stagger the loading, unloading and firing to fit your schedule and manpower.

LIMITED RISK

4. Less risk with smaller loads. Every now and then a firing error or kiln malfunction does happen. Wouldn't it be nice if you lost only one small load instead of an entire large load?
5. Downtime loss minimized. Downtime for general maintenance and repair is part of operating any kiln. But if you have ten small kilns equal in capacity of one large one, when one is down you lose 10% of your capacity, not 100%. According to Murphy's Law, a kiln will only break down when your reputation is on the line.

FASTER TURNAROUND

6. Faster firing cycles. Smaller kilns have the ability to heat up and cool down faster than large kilns. The ability to turn a kiln within a 24 hour period can sometimes double your production level.

(continued)

15 Benefits of Electric Production Kilns

7. No waiting to fill kiln. With a larger kiln, you can often find yourself waiting to fire the kiln because you do not have a full load. You can usually fill a small kiln, and if it's really important you can afford to fire a partial load so you and your customer both win.
8. Affordable equipment and installation. The cost difference between a Skutt production kiln and a large shuttle or front loading kiln is enormous.
9. Availability. Larger kilns sometimes take up to six months to order, manufacture and receive, but Skutt kilns are available within a few weeks from the manufacturer, or often immediately from distributor inventory.
10. Easy to expand capacity. Need more firing capacity? Simply add another kiln. Want of bid on a big project. Go ahead. You can quickly increase your firing capacity with more kilns.
11. More space flexibility. Place your kilns where you can fit them-in a line along a wall, in different rooms- you do not need to plan your studio around one large kiln.

EASE AND COST OF REPAIR

12. Easy to work on. Skutt kilns are specifically designed to allow the handy user to replace elements and firebricks. Skutt can walk you through most repairs and will ship parts within 24 hours.

CONTROL

13. Firing ventilation control. The Skutt EnviroVent provides automatic kiln ventilation, which eliminates the need for lid propping and allows loads of mixed glaze colors. In addition, all fumes are exhausted from your work room.
14. Temperature uniformity. Skutt's multi-side design and balanced placement of elements helps eliminate the hot and cold spots so common in square kilns.
15. Precise heat control. The heating or cooling rate is often vital to development of a piece. The smaller Firing chamber, combined with Skutt KilnMaster electronic controls, give much finer control than is possible with a large kiln.