

Selecting a kiln

A kiln is a kiln is a kiln. They are all basically a toaster on steroids. Electric elements apply heat and soft porous bricks hold the heat. They may have more or less extra features, but they are all essentially the same. Shop around for the best deal you can find. You'll hear many people tell you, *"My Zippydoodad Fusemaster is the best"* but you're just hearing personal brand preference. There's no important difference between Ford and Chev and there's no important difference between makes of kilns. It isn't the make of kiln that makes any difference - it's the features in the kiln. Here's some things to look for

SIZE

- Do you want to stay with a 120 volt plug or can you provide a 240 volt?
- What is the largest size project you expect to make?
- Do you want too allow for future growth?
- How deep a kiln do you need? A 6" deep is enough for fusing but not for deep slumps or drops.

VERSATILITY

- A kiln with top elements is better then one with side elements.
- A kiln with both top and side elements is best of all.

CONVENIENCE

- Are you willing to babysit the kiln during firing or do you want a digital controller that you can program to operate the firing while you're away?
- A round kiln costs less to build but a square kiln has more space.
- A top-loading kiln costs less then a front-loading but front-loading is easier to use.

It's a good idea to take some time to carefully consider what you want now and allow for what you might want in the future - then shop around for the best deal you can get for the kiln that best satisfies your wants.