

# BPQ KILN SERVICE

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS NUMBER 20 164 871 133

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## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BPQ KILNS

Thank you for your purchase of a BPQ Kiln. We know that you will be pleased with your new kiln, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any problems.

These instructions are written for the following kilns and variants as follows.

MODEL	SIZE in inches	SIZE in cm	POWER	MAX TEMP
BPQ04F	8"w x 9"d x 9"h	20cm x 23cm x 23cm	10 amps	1280°C
BPQ04P	12"w x 13"d x 4"h	30cm x 33cm x 10cm	10 amps	1280°C
BPQ12C	12"w x 13"d x 13"h	30cm x 33cm x 33cm	10 amps	1100°C
BPQ12F	12"w x 13"d x 13"h	30cm x 33cm x 33cm	15 amps	1280°C

Variants /C = fitted with internal controller

/E = fitted with socket for external controller (e.g. HARCO)

(For example - BPQ12F/E is a BPQ12 with a facility for an external controller)

## KILN CONTROLS

1. All models are fitted with a magnetic door safety switch, which removes all power from the kiln when the door is opened.
2. All models have an indicator lamp showing when power is applied to the elements.
3. All models, except the variant /E, are fitted with an energy regulator to control the amount of power supplied to the elements, thus controlling the temperature rise.

## SETTING UP

1. Check that the kiln is not damaged, and all elements are correctly located in their grooves.
2. Locate the kiln on a suitable bench, at least 12" (30cm) away from any flammable materials. A wooden bench top should be protected by a piece of fibro sheet or similar.
3. Plug the kiln into a suitable power outlet. Standard extension cords should not be used for connection to any kiln. BPQ12F kiln **MUST** be plugged into a 15 amp outlet - an incorrect connection may cause a fire.
4. If no controller is fitted to the kiln and you are using a pyrometer, fit your thermocouple to the hole provided at the rear of the kiln. The hole may be very carefully enlarged if necessary using a drill of the correct diameter.

Repairs and reconditioning of all kilns – all elements supplied – kiln controllers, pyrometers and thermocouples repaired and supplied – repairs to wheels and other pottery equipment – manufacturers of DIGITEMP digital pyrometer – repair consulting service.

5. If an external controller facility is fitted (variant /E), fit the controller to the 4 pin socket (contact the manufacturer if your external controller does not have a 4 pin plug fitted). Insert the thermocouple into the hole at the rear of the kiln. The hole may be very carefully enlarged if necessary using a drill of the correct diameter.
6. The vent hole at the top of the kiln is provided to allow the escape of waste gases, and should not be blocked under any circumstances. Very little heat will be lost from this small vent, so long as the spyhole is closed.
7. The kiln has been test fired, so it should only be necessary to carefully vacuum out any dust and commence firing.

## OPERATION

1. Load the kiln with your work. Keep pieces 1" (2.5cm) away from the elements to avoid local overheating. Use of a floor shelf is recommended to protect the floor bricks and produce a more even firing. *with 3 x 1/2" props.*
2. These kilns are designed for very fast firings, and best results will be obtained from quick firing cycles. It is not recommended to use these kilns for very long or very slow firing cycles, as there is a slight risk of overheating the kiln casing if fired over a long period (in excess of 10 hours).
3. Ensure that the thermocouple (if fitted) is inserted into the chamber before commencing any firing.
4. If using a kiln with built in controller, refer to the separate instruction sheet for setting up the controller.
5. If a HARCO or other external controller is fitted, refer to the separate operating instructions for the appropriate controller.
6. If using manual control for temperature rise (energy regulator) refer to the sample firing schedule (below) for suggested settings. This is a sample of an actual firing - you can adjust the settings as required for your firings.
7. When the firing is complete, wait until the temperature has dropped to 100 to 150 °C before opening the kiln.
8. Open the spyhole only to check on colour, cones, etc. Don't leave it open for long periods, except when cooling. Don't block the vent in the roof of the kiln.

## SAMPLE FIRING SCHEDULE

ENERGY REGULATOR	TIME	TEMPERATURE
ON	90 mins	140°C
1	105 mins	300°C
1.5	75 mins	525°C
2.5	105 mins	685°C
3.5	15 mins	810 °C
FULL	45 mins	1200 °C

Total firing time = 7 hrs 15 mins

## WARNING

1. This kiln can reach very dangerous temperatures. Do not allow children near the kiln while operating and do not leave unsupervised.
2. Never open the door when the temperature is above 150 °C inside the kiln, unless protective equipment is worn.
3. Keep all flammable materials well clear of the kiln at all times.

## MAINTENANCE

1. Regularly vacuum clean the interior of the kiln, particularly around the elements, with care. Any glaze or other material on the elements can cause premature failure, and is not covered by warranty.
2. Occasionally lightly lubricate the door latch and hinges.

## WARRANTY

This kiln is covered by a 12 month warranty on all materials and workmanship, (not including freight costs) **except** the element(s) which is covered for 3 months, **with the following exceptions:-**

1. No warranty claims accepted on the kiln or contents for overfiring, however caused.
2. No warranty claims accepted for element failure if caused by foreign material on the element.
3. All warranty claims accepted at the discretion of the manufacturer or dealer only.

No warranty is given in regard to performance of the kiln, except for statutory requirements.

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AA Kilns

Leone and Ross

Thanks for your letter of acceptance re the kilns. I hope that we can have profitable results for both our businesses.

Warranty will be 12 months for all except elements, which are 3 months, covering faulty materials or workmanship. Of course there is no coverage for user damage – this is at the discretion of the dealer or manufacturer. I am currently writing an instruction book, which will detail the warranty. I will send you a copy when it is completed.

I will be advertising in the Doll Digest, next issue is June. Until then, I will be advertising in the newsletters of local groups and associations, with a colour page liftout of the brochure I sent you. I just got a quote for 500 colour brochures from a printer - \$814!!! I think I will be printing them on my computer, slow but cheap.

I will be putting the kilns on the web page, with references to dealers, yourselves included, as soon as I can sit down for long enough at the computer!

Now, the Transfield quotes. After a lot of thought and soul-searching, I have decided not to quote on any of the work.

The main reason is that I am currently going through a major cross-road in my working life – I will be 55 next year, and can start drawing my superannuation (from my 14 years in Telecom/Telstra – it is an indexed pension). Also, as you are aware, there is a major downturn in kiln repair work – it is almost uneconomical for me to do service calls, when vehicle running costs are considered as well. As well as that, my back problem is not being improved by all the heavy work and driving.

So I have been tossing up which direction to move, and have finally decided to sell our industrial shed, and move back to the shed at home where I started. I can continue to manufacture small kilns and Digitemps from there, and do the occasional service job, without the pressure of the overheads.

I have advertised for an electrician who wants to do the kiln servicing on a subcontract or referral basis, but I don't hold much hope of finding one with good diagnostic skills and knowledge of firing (unless you want to move to Qld !?!) so I will just have to let most of the servicing work go begging.

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