



Vol. III • No. IV

# Imprint

For the Decorative Concrete Professional

## Want endless color options? FOLLOW THE SS RAINBOW FOR VIVID, VERSATILE STAIN

BY DOUG BANNISTER

THE STAMP STORE®

These days designers demand more color options. While acid stains can sometimes deliver great color and effects, the condition of the concrete “canvas” often dictates the outcome and color selection is limited. To ensure concrete remains the first choice in interior and exterior design, the Stamp Store introduces the SS Rainbow Stain System.

Just like the name, the SS Rainbow water-borne stain system offers concrete

contractors and designers hundreds of possible color choices. The system offers 26 standard colors; eight are formulated to correspond with popular acid stain colors. If your acid stains aren't doing the job, reach for the appropriate SS Rainbow color to finish out. Hundreds of other colors are available on a custom order basis.

Use SS Rainbow stains to antique stamped work, provide subtle drifts of color, or completely change the concrete color. You'll find SS Rainbow stains are forgiving and easy to use.

Before you begin, make sure your concrete is clean, dry and open. Apply the stain with an airless sprayer, HVLP, brush, roller (be careful of roller edge lines) or pump up sprayer. Follow with water borne or solvent based sealers.

SS Rainbow stains are sold as two separate components—pigment and base. We recommend adding pigment to base on the job site. Rinse the pigment bottle with two ounces of water, add the rinse water to the base, stir or shake,

*Cont'd on page 2*

**RAINBOW**  
**SS STAIN SYSTEM**

	<b>FULL CHART INSIDE</b>		

\* White not pictured.

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## SS Rainbow: endless options



Father and son team, Rick and Rick Marino of Warren, OH, are pioneers of decorative concrete in their area, however they aren't resting on their laurels. "We love our work, but we know you need to stay on top of things" says Rick, Sr. Back for his third seminar, Marino wanted specific knowledge about concrete admixtures. "When you learn about chemicals, you can stamp more off one load," he said. "I want to be able to talk to my concrete."



Rudy Kovic of Magnolia Homes, Houston, TX, said every home builder should be aware of the cost benefits of decorative concrete over that of other materials. He attended the seminar to learn about staining and scoring floors. "But I discovered a whole lot of other applications that we can use in our homes," he said.

From his initial investigation, Kovic feels decorative concrete could reduce their flooring cost by one half.



Long winters in Aspen, CO, find Paul Buch, owner of Buch Design, creating decorative concrete furniture and countertops for an upscale clientele. During the summer his work centers around landscape design. With these combined skills, Buch says he arrived at the Stamp Store to learn more about creating faux rocks

and other concrete sculpture using the FossilCrete Vertical Concrete System. He's interested in producing his own line of concrete furniture—tables and coffee tables with wrought iron bases, and similar signature pieces.

Steve Lloyd's concrete experience reaches back many years. "I started when they had the old metal stamps," he says. Over the past ten years, he's attended virtually every concrete training program around, learning more each time. "I learned bubblegum release and integral colors are the way to go," he says. Lloyd owns Lloyd Concrete Services, Rustburg, VA, a company that focuses mainly on floors. Today, his company employs 88 people, and count among their large commercial customers Boeing, KB Toys; Anheuser Busch; Gulf Stream; and Frito Lay.



*Cont'd from pg. 1*

then apply. Stirring during application ensures even pigment dispersion.

The SS Rainbow Stain System allows you to adjust the vitality of the color by varying the pigment to base ratio. For stronger color, add more pigment to the base; for lighter shades, add less pigment. Always test your stain beforehand to determine the techniques and effects that best fit your project.

With the SS Rainbow Stain System, it's important to understand that different application methods yield different effects. A pump up sprayer works well for antiquing stamped work and adding accents; an HVLP is the better choice for atomizing and achieving a more uniform base color. The HVLP also offers interesting veining and speckling effects, and is a great all around tool for SS Rainbow stains as well as sealers.

If you want to add accents, opt for a smaller pump up sprayer. You can create some neat effects with a pump up by applying the base alone over a first color, or onto bare concrete. "Blob" out your Rainbow stain while the base is either wet or dry. If the base is wet, your stain will "travel", creating interesting blends and shadows effects, much like acid stains. For a "fish eye" effect, blob stain onto a dry base. Again, remember to test your technique before final application so you can gauge what is best for the job.

Coverage rates vary from 150 to 600 square feet/gallon depending upon porosity and desired effect. Cost is \$35 per gallon for standard colors. Remember, orders placed before noon ship out the same day—and this includes custom colors.

### LOOKING FOR LIQUID INTEGRAL COLOR?

Ready mix plants are using more and more liquid color—**WE'VE GOT IT!**

less mess, no weighing, more reliability and unparalleled color matching. Now contractors can enjoy the same advantage using the Stamp Store's liquid integral system. **Solomon Colors ColorFlo™ Liquid Concrete Colors** are pre-dispersed iron oxide pigments containing high pigment solids in an aqueous base liquid. The system contains 1,200 color formulations; plus, the Stamp Store can match any manufacturer's color. The colors arrive ready to add to the truck, eliminating the need to mix color on site, and guaranteeing a perfect match should your customer request similar work in the future. "The computer batching really takes the guesswork out of getting the proper amount of color. I would've loved to have had this convenience years ago when I was contracting," says Doug Bannister. For contractors who focus on big pours or anyone who appreciates guaranteed good results liquid integral is supreme.

**Get the colorful details:  
888-848-0059/405-525-2426**

A need for massive landscape rocks brought Mike Maris of Dallas to the intensive, hands-on vertical concrete deminar at the Stamp Store. California contractor John Schuler attended to learn about making custom concrete furniture, landscape sculpture and signature features for homes and businesses; and for Lawson Edwards of Moore, it's all about adding new services to his growing concrete business that will set him apart from the competition.

While business interests varied, all vertical deminar attendees agreed on one thing: the more you know, the more you grow. By beefing up their vertical skills, they're banking on the system's near infinite versatility to land them work that ranges from custom concrete sculpting to stair rises.

"Anything we can add to our range of services is something we want to know about," said Schuler. Schuler and employee Josh Wallace specialize in decorative concrete installation and use their combined concrete and welding skills to produce signature concrete benches, tables and landscape features for a booming market in the California Gold Country.

The pair said they'd familiarized themselves with the FossilCrete vertical system, but wanted hands-on training in the creation of concrete boulders and trees. Like their classmates, they absorbed plenty of inside tips on forming, stamping, detail carving and staining. By brainstorming uses for the vertical system and discussing how it might compliment previous jobs, they left the deminar with long list of potential customers.

For Mike Maris, the vertical deminar opened his eyes to new landscaping possibilities for his Japanese garden. Maris said he stumbled across information on the vertical system at the Concrete Design Center in Dallas. "I realized



## SCULPTING TREES, BUILDING BOULDERS CONTRACTORS TESTIFY TO VERTICAL SYSTEM BENEFITS

**"Anything we can add to our range of services is something we want to know about."**

JOHN SCHULER, CALIFORNIA

immediately that this was exactly what I'd been looking for," he said.

Maris wants to add large rocks to his water garden, but the layout of his finished landscape makes it impossible to haul in real stone without destroying years of work. "I enrolled because I wanted to learn how to build the type of rocks I wanted and make them look attractive," he said. "But I love the fact that I can create water features that I could never achieve with real rock."

The ability to control the flow of water, directing it through crevices, holes and

even sculpted tree limbs, is a huge attraction to homeowners. Maris's reaction proved that point and then some. "I have natural stone overhangs around my pool that are crumbling into the water. Now I can solve that problem with concrete," he said. "After seeing the capabilities here, it makes me want to build a new home."

Most attendees fielded questions concerning the strength of the material. They weren't disappointed with the answer. With the proper support structure, virtually any vertical concrete shape will hold a man's weight. "Diving rocks, bridges and overhangs, you can do it all with this stuff," said Stan Pace, owner of FossilCrete.

For details on the FossilCrete vertical system, call 405-525-3722. **Next vertical class: June 7-9, 2004.**

## PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT



## RIVER ROCK

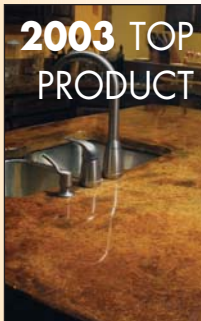
Get the look of Colorado river rock with the river rock texture mat from the Stamp Store. Actual rock size varies from four inches (round) to nine inches (elongated).

ITEM#: PRO RRK SIZE: 42"x42"  
PRICE: \$165 ea.

To order, call 888-848-0059 or visit [thestampstore.com](http://thestampstore.com).

## COUNTERTOP VIDEO VOTED

The Stamp Store Cast-In-Place Countertop Video won an Oscar, sort of. The video was selected as a Top Product of 2003 by the editorial staff of *CONCRETE CONCEPTS* magazine.



Each year, the magazine editors receive top product nominations from readers and product manufacturers from across the country. Only 25 products received the 2003 top designation. "Our editorial staff made the final decisions based on the video's innovativeness and its popularity among our readers," said Edward Bauer, publisher. "This video is a valuable product to the concrete construction industry."

Order the Cast-In-Place Countertop Video, by calling 888-848-0059, or order online at: [thestampstore.com](http://thestampstore.com).

## concrete and heat

# TOOLS & TECHNIQUES THAT LET YOU CONTROL THE SET

Before you plunge into hot weather concreting, consider the transition from spring to summer. Cool early mornings, warmer daytime temperatures and sunny skies are common conditions that can lead to differential concrete setting. This means the top sets faster than the bottom—not a good thing for stamping. To promote a more consistent top-to-bottom set, think about ways to speed the set so you can stamp sooner and shorten the time the concrete surface is exposed to sun and wind. By controlling your set, your work will look crisper and you'll notice a lot less surface cracking.

Common ways to speed set times include going to a straight Portland mix; increasing the Portland content by half a sack; or using a non chloride accelerator like Fritz-Pak NCA. But successful hot weather concrete work extends beyond the mix. Below are some new techniques and tools that will pull you through summer with a lot less sweat.

**STICK TO THE PLAN:** Spend time visualizing the finished job. Mentally work backwards through the various steps that ensure a quality project. Remember, you may have two different areas of the pour ready for stamping. Get your tools, mats and people ready. Next, employ step retardation. It will yield more consistent texture and improve the morale of your crew. Remember the principles of front-end work—they will get you the check and referrals, too.

**THE RIGHT MIX:** Most mix designs have air entrainment and water reducers—these are good things. Consider using fly ash mixes to give you more working time in hot weather. The integral color difference between a fly ash mix and a Portland mix is negligible—just keep your color amounts, mix design and substrate conditions consistent throughout the job and your colors will follow. Use the largest rock that will work for the depth of the texture you desire, three-quarter inch words fine. Avoid chip mixes because they tend to shrink more. Use chemical additives to adjust slump and set time. Remember, *water is not an admixture!*

**STEP RETARDATION:** Step retardation extends the stamping window. Basically, this involves dividing the truck—or pour—into thirds. Add retarder to each third to vary set times. For example, pour out three cubic yards of a nine cubic-yard truck with no retarder; add three bags of Fritz Mini-Delayed Set to the remaining six cubic yards (this equals half or one percent retarder); pour it out, then add another bag or two to the remaining three cubic yards. Step retardation lets you transition smoothly through each section of the pour and maintain stamp-ready concrete at all times.

**COLOR TIPS:** When there are no job specs to dictate color, choose the coloring method that is the most manageable for the job. Working color harder in on a hot summer day is labor intensive, but you shouldn't automatically exclude it as an option. Just

remember to get organized—from mix design to crew and materials (remember the control finish). Modest misting or fogging of the surface is okay with color hardener; but don't abuse the practice by working in standing water. A less laborious option for coloring in hot weather is integral color. Acid Stains and SS Rainbow stains can be applied later to add accents.

**RELEASE:** Choosing clear liquid release or bubblegum over dry release is another option in hot weather. Bubblegum is clean and transparent, so you can see and correct defects. When using bubblegum, allow enough time for the moisture to dissipate after final troweling, usually 10 to 15 minutes. To test, press gently on the surface. When the surface pushes down but you don't pick up sand on your fingers, it's stamp time. If you stamp too early, the stamps will pick up paste and the stamped surface looks sandy or fuzzy. To correct this, trowel over the bubblegum and wait a bit.

**CURE AND SEAL:** As soon as conditions allow (when bubblegum has evaporated and you can walk on surface) apply SS 2500 Supreme. This cure and seal product helps maintain surface moisture in the concrete. The SS 3000 Supreme makes an excellent top coat over the SS 2500 for the Cadillac of stamped sealers. Covering with plastic is effective, but may stain the surface.

**FLOAT IT:** Bull floats bring water to the top of your slab, promote a more even top-to-bottom set, and keep the surface more elastic. Use a magnesium bull float and fresno early in the finishing process to prevent bleed water from rising to the surface. Water underneath can keep the bottom spongy and allow the top to become dry and crusty. A "spongy bottom-crusty top" may exhibit pil- lowing and edge cracking.

Use a wood or fiberglass bull float for the first float passes, then follow with the magnesium bull float and fresno later in the

process. A wood bull float is especially important when working with color hardener because it encourages more water to rise and wet out the color. A weighted fresno will bring more elasticity to the surface, especially useful if you experience cracking while stamping.

**SURFACE RETARDERS:** Eucobar is a surface evaporation retardant and another critical hot weather aid. Eucobar forms a membrane and retains surface moisture, but won't impact the setting time of the concrete below the surface. You can apply it more than once, but only after a finishing process. Don't float it into the surface.

**CONTROL FINISH:** New from Fritz-Pak, Control Finish is a surface treatment product that blends super plasticizer and retarder in a powder form. Use it when you need more surface moisture; when using color hardener, for example. To apply, dump the control finish into a pump up sprayer, add water and apply sparingly. Work the orange-colored control finish in with a bull float until you see no color.

**QUICK FIXES:** Once you get comfortable using these hot weather techniques and products, you'll find little need for remedial work. However, if you do notice edge cracks use a fine-aggregate slurry or SLICK'EM and the appropriate integral color. Test your slurry mix first to assure a match. On larger areas, consider applying the SS Rainbow Stain System or an antique "wash" by combining release agent, stain and sealer and apply with an airless sprayer. Remember to resolve color issues before applying sealer.

**FINAL THOUGHTS:** Be adaptable, have a number of mix designs to address the different conditions you may confront, and stay organized. Always plan your project before you hit the job site, and incorporate front end work and step retardation as standard parts of your business approach—it pays.



**FRITZ-PAK  
MINI DELAYED SET:**

Box of 60 (8 oz. bags)  
\$116<sup>40</sup>. (That's one bag per cubic yard per hour at a cost of \$2<sup>50</sup>/cubic yard.)

**FRITZ-PAK  
NON CHLORIDE  
ACCELERATOR:**

5 lb. bag (8 per box)  
\$48<sup>72</sup>

**FRITZ-PAK  
CONTROL FINISH:**

Box of 30 (8 oz. pkgs.)  
\$153<sup>60</sup>

**EUCOBAR:**

1 gal. \$35  
5 gal. \$130

**CLEAR LIQUID  
RELEASE:**

5 gal. \$65  
55 gal. \$500

**WOOD BULL FLOAT:**

48"x8' #MT LF 48 \$91<sup>30</sup>

**SS SUPREME 2500:**

A tough, long wearing pure acrylic sealer with 25 percent solids. Provides medium gloss with UV protection.  
5 gal./\$104<sup>40</sup>

**SS SUPREME 3000:**

Top-of-the-line pure acrylic sealer with 30 percent solids. Offers a high gloss finish with UV protection.  
5 gal./\$115

**CONCRETE CALENDAR**

APRIL 22-24

DCC SPRING FLING, SAN DIEGO, CA

866-788-ASCC/WWW.ASCCONLINE.ORG

SEPTEMBER 9-11

ASCC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ST. LOUIS, MO

WWW.ASCCONLINE.ORG

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## Bannister heads Decorative Concrete Council

Members of the American Society of Concrete Contractor's Decorative Concrete Council (DCC) elected Doug Bannister as executive director at their annual meeting at the 2004 World of Concrete. Bannister is a founding member of the DCC and has served on the board of directors for two year. His term will extend to the 2006 World of Concrete.

"This is an exciting time for the DCC and the ASCC. The two groups are working

more closely together to grow and to lead the industry," Bannister said.

The DCC is currently working on a plan to create more regional events. "The idea is to bring programs to more parts of the nation more often," Bannister said. "To accomplish this we need more local involvement, so look for us to be more visible with state ready mix organizations, PCA, ACI, AIA and other groups as we build a stronger decorative concrete network."

## DCC Spring Fling Coming Up

The ASCC Decorative Concrete Council will feature seminars and demonstrations of decorative concrete techniques at the DCC Spring Fling, April 22-24, 2004 in San Diego. Topics include: additives for decorative concrete; stamped and stenciled concrete; staining, scoring and acid etching; and stamped and sprayed textured overlay systems.

Demonstrations featuring countertops and vertical concrete techniques are also

scheduled; plus roundtable discussions on mix design, polishing concrete, working in adverse conditions, staining tips and tricks, and more.

For architects, builders, contractors and others interested in decorative concrete, the Spring Fling is a "must".

Seating is limited, so please register soon. Advance registration is required.

**For more details, call 314-962-0210 or visit [asconline.org](http://asconline.org).**

## Stamp Store sells CDC

The Stamp Store sold its interest in the Dallas-based Concrete Design Center in late 2003.

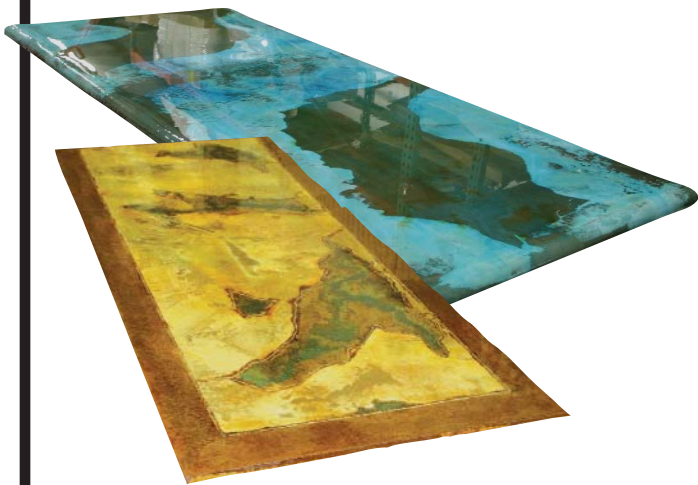
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# DEMINAR **SNAP SHOTS**



OCTOBER, 2003: **Front row:** Sam Archer; Chris Rawlings; Javier; Doug Bannister; Steve Ryan; Ruth Martin; and Joe Doub. **Back row:** John Mathers; Justin Jones; Skip Blough; Mike Macey; Kyle Pound; and William Ward.



NOVEMBER, 2003: **Front row:** Bob Gamble; Doug Bannister; Joe Boatey; and Joe Woodard. **Back row:** Mike Miller; Eric Talley; Danny Taylor; Doug Taylor; Benny Ward; Thomas Hicks; and John McCollum.



DECEMBER, 2003: **Front row:** Bill Hansen; Doug Bannister; Paul Buch; and Louis Kleinsmith. **Back row:** Dave Arnold; Steve Lloyd; Adam Fowler; and Mike Ollison.



JANUARY, 2004: **Front row:** Mic Schwindt; Peter Jorgensen; Doug Bannister; Gary Eble; and Tyrone Davis. **Back row:** Steve Carr; Janet Franklin; Jim Wosnitsky; Sid Thayer; Lena Neasbitt; Todd McPhail; Dana Truesdell; Rudy Kovic; and Les Stever.



FEBRUARY 2004: **Front row:** Les William Cunningham; Brian Biddle; Doug Bannister; Dale Bender; and Troy Thissen. **Back row:** Carl Mears; Joe Costa; Rick Marino, Jr.; Allen Scalf; Rick Marino, Sr.; Arthur Contreras; Monty Ferguson; Jason Lunn; John Fuqua; Mike McClain; Troy Schweinberg; and Justin Benjamin.



NOVEMBER, 2003: **Front row:** Lee Lunceford; Shana Pace; Ross Klimo; and Esquiell Treito. **Back row:** Lawson Edwards; Josh Wallace; Stan Pace; John Schuler; Michael Maris; Brent Hulen; Mike Donlin; Larry Rose; and Mike Neal.



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## Deminar Calendar

*The Hands-On Training You Expect, Plus New Deminars That Zero In On Exciting New Techniques!*

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All attendees receive a complimentary binder loaded with helpful information including application techniques and mix designs for future reference.

Deminar attendees also enjoy ongoing, qualified tech support that is the Stamp Store trademark—and a five percent discount on all Stamp Store products...forever.

### 2004 CLASSES

April	15-17
May	20-22
June (VERTICAL CLASS)	7-9
June	17-19
July	22-24
August	26-28
September	16-18
October	21-23
November	4-6

*Our classes fill quickly, so please enroll soon.*