

## Blue-and-White Vases with Ling-lung Pattern

Underglaze blue-and-white with Ling-lung (Rice) pattern was invented in Jingdezhen. “Ling-lung” or porcelain with rice pattern was created on the basis of an open-work engraving technique in the Song Dynasty and developed gradually in the Ming Dynasty. During the Qianlong reign of the Qing Dynasty, the ceramic artists of Jingdezhen created a unified and harmonious decoration by combining green and transparent Ling-lung with blue-and-white design. As a result, the unique style of underglaze blue-and-white porcelain with rice pattern was formed with perfect artistic effects.



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Ling-lung is also called porcelain with rice pattern because it appears to be formed by many semi-transparent rice-shaped patterns. In reality, Ling-lung comes in different shapes, such as rice, water drop, spray, orchid petal, and peach. This pattern is often combined with underglaze blue-and-white decoration. Dating back to the Qing Dynasty, green and transparent Ling-

lung was combined with blue-and-white design, creating a unique and harmonious style. Locally, Ling-lung pattern is also known as “Ling-lung Eye,” which comes in various forms like butterfly, peony, double phoenix, and others. When engraving Ling-lung eyes on greenware biscuits, craftsmen must consider the deformation of the ware and the stickiness of Ling-lung glaze fired at high temperatures to avoid defects like glaze flowing.

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After engraving Ling-lung eyes, craftsmen fill them with special transparent glaze slip by brushing repeatedly, about six to ten times. Fine trimming removes excess transparent glaze from the wares. Once the transparent glaze is dried, craftsmen paint blue-and-white designs on the biscuit and apply a traditional transparent glaze over the entire piece. The glazed ware is then placed in a saggar, loaded into the kiln, and fired, resulting in a wonderful underglaze blue-and-white with Ling-lung pattern.

The blue-and-white decoration is subordinate while Ling-lung holds the dominant position, bringing out the best decorative effects. This unique style is popular in the market due to its diversity. Underglaze blue-and-white with rice pattern ranges from household porcelains like Chinese and Western tableware, tea sets, coffee sets, wine sets, dining wares, smoking sets, and stationeries to ornamental porcelains like vases, flower vats, hanging plates, and egg shell lampshades. Additionally, besides green and transparent Ling-lung glaze, other color glazes like red, yellow, and blue are also applied to fill Ling-lung eyes. Patterns formed by colored Ling-lung eyes are exquisitely carved, elegant, bright, colorful, and gorgeous.

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The mixture of green transparent Ling-lung and the exquisite, tranquil, and elegant blue creates a harmonious integration in which glazes are blended beautifully. Its artistic characteristics easily impress viewers with refreshing pureness, a quality that finds favor with all people.

**Contact us :**

5F-B18 Digital Trade Industrial Park,  
Ceramic Expo City, Changnan New District,  
Jingdezhen, China

[www.californiasources.site](http://www.californiasources.site)

[ChineseSources.org@outlook.com](mailto:ChineseSources.org@outlook.com)

Phone 18918151538 (WeChat)





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