



Hilltop Cloud

Time Travellers Club

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February-17

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Dear Club Member,

Go in to any shop, look around and chances are you'll see a celebrity endorsement on all sorts of products. We might roll our eyes, and bemoan our modern era where people seem to become famous for not doing much of any great worth, but this is not a new phenomena. In 1745 King Louis XV of France had a famous mistress, called Madame du Pompadour. She was the fashion icon of France, and what she wore, ate, drunk etc. was bound to be copied by any aspiring fashionable woman. So it made very good sense for manufacturers to give her items free of charge, in the hope she would use them, and others would copy.

This was particularly the case with the pottery manufacturers. The Vincennes pottery in France was on the back foot. The more famous Meissen pottery over the border in Germany was producing a more technologically advanced product. The Vincennes pottery then had a break through, they discovered how to gild their pottery, applying gold edges and outlines to make their pots more glamorous. From that point, things were on the up! The pottery started giving their latest designed to Madame du Pompadour, and she would drink tea from them, or have them on display in her rooms. Sales rocketed, allowing further research and innovation. Madame du Pompadour loved colour, so the factory (now moved to Sèvres, the name by which is now more known), started experimenting with coloured backgrounds to their porcelain. This led to the most famous Sèvres colour, Pompadour Pink. The glaze was made by dissolving gold in nitrohydrochloric acid, and adding ground up ruby red glass. The resulting pink was wonderfully expensive. The colours it was combined with are a little eye shocking to our modern eyes. It was combined with jade green for a brief period in 1759, but by 1761 to be on trend you had to combine it with beau bleu. Any fan of My Little Pony would adore the pottery of this period!

I've used a combination of the shades this month, but combined it with some natural coloured wool to tone down the overall effect!

Happy Spinning,

Katie