

To finish the base architecture, install small stilts that stand about one inch above the floor to support the kiln shelves which are the surface upon which the casting molds will sit. There are many techniques available to bring about this process: for example you could make your own stilts by carving soft brick or you could purchase stilts from your local pottery store, or you might make your own by using a mix of fire clay and grog and fire them in place. Kiln shelf supports are available in a great variety of shapes. Fig. 22-07 shows a detail drawing of the shelves in place. The air gap under the shelves is important for heat equalization to occur and is more important for kilns that have bottom elements than those that don't.

If you are not using bottom elements it is perfectly OK to just use the G-23 layer as the landing pad or working surface of the kiln. If this is your preference, I would suggest you preserve the insulation value of the brick and its structural integrity by painting on a layer of Z-wash. The Z-wash layer can be re-painted as time goes on and the quality of the kiln floor will remain pristine.

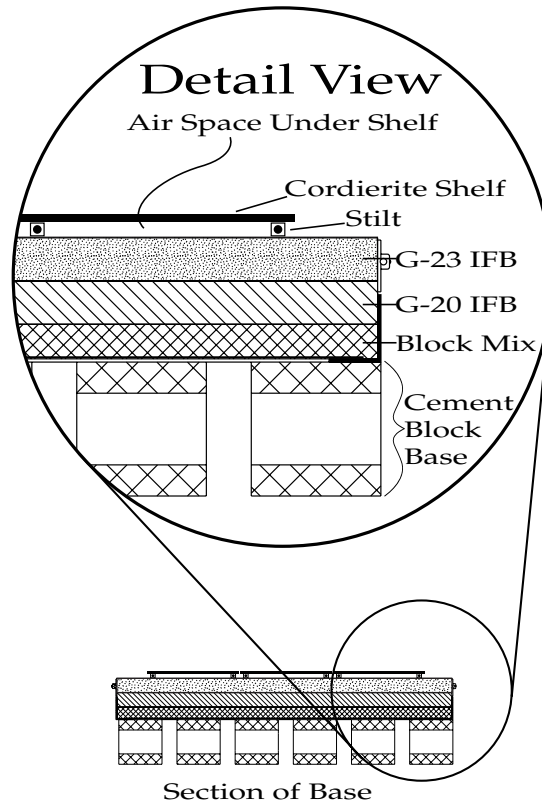


fig. 22-07 Kiln shelves make an excellent final layer for the base of the kiln. I prefer cordierite kiln shelving as it is relatively strong and is good in this type of situation. I would not recommend using silicon carbide as this is an electrical conductor.

Completing the kiln base

The final item to make is the gasket ring which sits on the top of the base and seals the air space between the lid and base. It is made of one inch thick 8# density fiberfrax and is covered with siltemp cloth. Fig. 22-08 shows the fiberfrax with a wrap of siltemp cloth.

Fig. 22-09 shows our beautiful base with the "frax" gasket installed ready for the crown to be set in place.

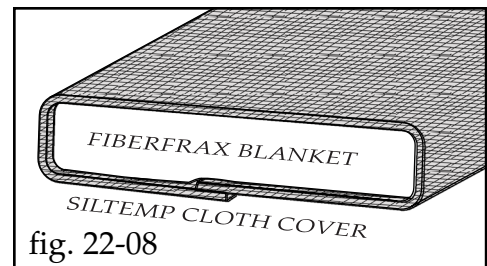


fig. 22-08

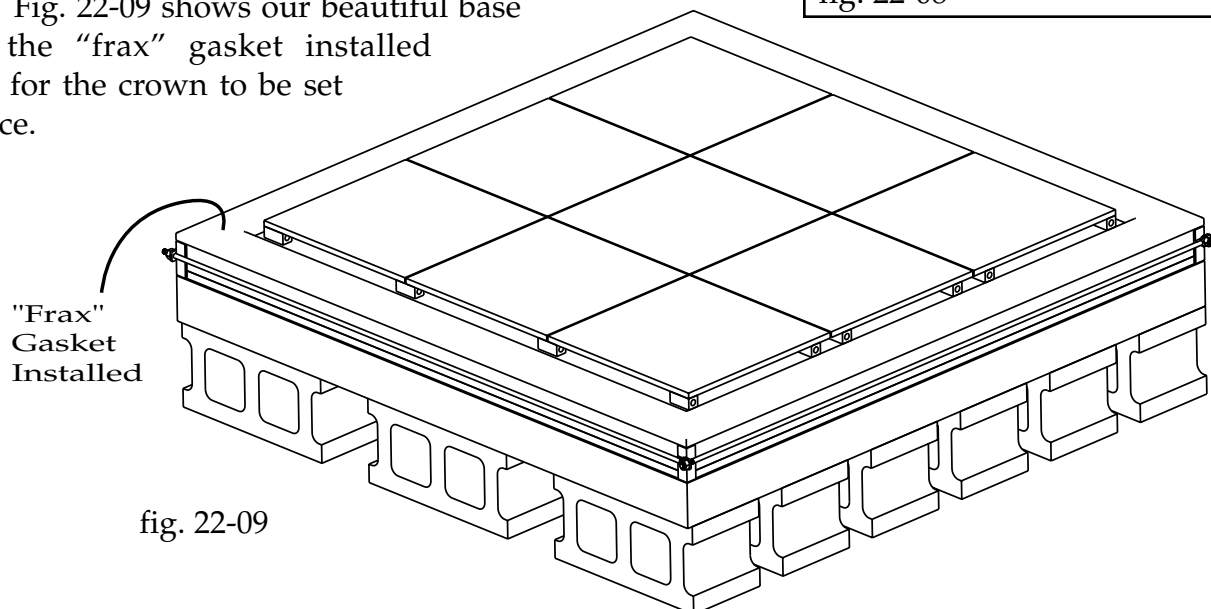


fig. 22-09