

Paintstik Instructions

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Quilted Arts Studio

Paintstiks are made with pigment, oil and wax. They can be used on fabric, plaster, wood, paper, metal, canvas and other artist materials. They contain less oil than other oil bars so will not harm your fabric.

Preparing the fabric: fabric should be pre washed in water as hot as possible for the fabric. Washing with synthrapol (1/2 teaspoon per pound of fabric) and PRO dye activator or soda ash (1/2 teaspoon per pound of fabric) is recommended but you can use regular laundry detergent without bleach or fabric softener additives. Do not use fabric softener in the washer or the dryer. You want to wash off as much of the sizing and finish as possible.

When working with paintstiks wear old clothes and watch your shirtsleeves. The paintstik will wash out if caught right away.

Paintstiks develop a thin protective skin over the paint which must be removed before using. Remove by pinching and twisting with a paper towel or by rubbing on a rough surface or by using a knife. Be careful with the skin that comes off - it can stain what it falls on, so do this over a trash can and throw away the paper towels immediately.

Once the skin is removed you can use the paintstik straight from the stick or by making a puddle on a palette and applying with a brush. Paintstiks can be mixed on the fabric or on a pallet.

You can apply paintstiks using rubbings, rubbing over stamps, using masks made with masking tape, using stencils, and by painting on with a brush. Another technique is to use a quilting stencil, applying the paintstik with a brush. After removing the stencil, brush the paint from the stencil line into the shape to shade. For stenciling or doing a rubbing with a brush I like the white nylon bristle stencil brushes, such as those made by Loew Cornell. A Grip-n-grip sheet is helpful to keep the fabric from slipping.

For rubbings: Put the Grip-n-grip sheet down on your table. Place the rubbing plate on top and the fabric on top of that. Use light, short strokes and your rubbing will appear. For a lighter, more blurred look apply the paint over the rubbing with a brush instead of directly from the stick. If you're having trouble with the fabric slipping, the rubbing plate may be sprayed lightly with KK2000 or other heat disappated spray.

For stenciling: Place your fabric directly on the grip-n-grip sheet. Firmly hold the stencil on top and apply the paint with a stenciling brush. You may spray the back of your stencil with KK2000 or other heat disappated spray to help the stencil stick better to the fabric.

Paintstiks should be allowed to dry for 3-5 days (5-7 days for heavy applications). Then heat set with a dryer or iron.

Dryer: Set the dryer on the hottest setting and dry for 30 minutes. Do not do this unless the paint has dried completely.

Iron: Lay a piece of grease proof paper on your ironing board - Parchment paper, brown craft paper, or unprinted newsprint. Lay your fabric paint side down on the paper. If you painted both sides of the fabric or are using delicate fabric, cover with a pressing cloth. Set your iron to the highest setting appropriate to the fabric. Press, don't iron, for 10 -15 seconds, move iron and repeat until fabric has all been covered.

After heat setting, fabric is washable in cold water by hand or machine, dry on low or line dry. After the fabric has been washed it's ready to use. **DO NOT DRY CLEAN.** The solvents used will break down the paints.