

SPRAY PAINTING TECHNIQUE - Colouring a Ready Made Garment

1. Mix colours in a spray bottles - approx 1/3 to 1/2 bottle Liquid Radiance to 250 - 300 mls water will give good colour strength - it is advisable to test this for colour strength before starting your painting task.
 2. You can work on wet or dry garment - if wet, towel dry it, and remember that the colour will be paler because of the water already in the fabric.
 3. Spray your colours onto the garment as desired, making sure you do not over-saturate the fibres as the excess will either drip out or make the fabric a little stiff!
 4. Handle the garment to form your pattern. If using 'tie dye' techniques, the pattern is formed by folding, tying, or scrunching the garment before the colour is sprayed on.
 - * Garment can be placed on a coat hanger to dry - make sure your colour isn't dripping with colour for this method.
 - * Garment can be laid on a plastic sheet, and salt added to the colour for texturing.
 - * An open fronted garment can be spread across the plastic before spraying, then scrunched and/or salted after colour has been added, to form interesting patterns.
- HINT: When forming the pattern or markings on your garment, remember that the areas that have the most air around them (ie up off the plastic) will be the darkest, and the areas flat against the plastic will be lighter in colour when dry.

Important Things to Remember when colouring with Liquid Radiance

While there's MOISTURE, there's MOVEMENT ... that is, while the fabric is still wet, the colours will continue to 'do their thing' in the fabric, moving and acting with the colours around them (or water) till the fabric is dry.

EXCESS is the ENEMY ... overloading the fabric with Liquid Radiance can stiffen the fibres, especially on fine or sheer fabrics. This can leave an undesirable 'plastic-y' feel on the underside of the fabric. Avoid this by not putting too much colour in the fibre in the first place ... blot out any excess with tissue or another piece of fabric. Remember if you can see puddles of moisture in your fabric, there's way too much colour in there. And if it's dripping, that's really bad news !! You're not only suffering from overload but wasting all that lovely colour at the same time.

**SIMPLIFYING THESE TWO STATEMENTS: Moisture / Movement = M
Excess / Enemy = E**

**So ...to use Liquid Radiance successfully and correctly remember ME ...
and you can't go wrong !!!**

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Liquid Radiance

Some "Basics" to Get You Started!

**Unique Concepts
for Your Creativity
in Fabric Art
and Silk Painting**

MADE in AUSTRALIA
OWNED by AUSTRALIANS

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Liquid Radiance ...

a unique concept in fabric colouring ... design your own fabrics ... colour your ribbons, threads and laces ... light fast and colour fast in all fabrics and fibres ...

- **NINE PURE PIGMENT COLOURS** from which you can mix absolutely any colour you wish ... our Colour Mixing Guide will get you started.
- **VERY CONCENTRATED COLOURS** ... must be diluted with water ... 50:50 for super strong colour ... 1 part concentrate to 3 parts water for bright, vibrant colour ... lots of water for paler shades!
- **NON-TOXIC AND NON-POLLUTING**, these colours are safe, and simple to use. They wash off skin easily, and leave no residual stains.

Liquid Radiance is a finely milled liquid acrylic colour that performs like a dye in fabric ... no steaming required ... no messy fixatives or chemicals.

We believe that your Silk and Fabric Painting should be as individual as you are!

*The techniques described in these notes are simple 'dropper' techniques, to achieve an overall 'dyed' look quickly and easily. This will get you started. To really enjoy our ideas and skills, our **HANDBOOKS** listed below explain a whole range of our ideas and skills:*

Fabulous Fabrics **Instant Fabrics in the Microwave** **Garments Galore**
Understanding Fabric Art **Sensational Silk** **Papers with Personality**

IMPORTANT:

- **Always dilute colour concentrate with water for these techniques. Do NOT use colour concentrate straight from the bottle! - it is far too strong !!**
- **Use a small piece of stocking stretched over the neck of your dispenser bottle to strain the colour in dropper techniques. It will also help to identify your diluted colours from your concentrates, as they are very difficult to tell one from the other when you stand them side by side.**
- **Choose colours that appeal to you, and that 'go well' together.**

WATERMARKING: Spread a sheet of plastic, larger than your fabric to be coloured, across your work table. (Spread your work on the floor when working on large fabric pieces.) Wet your fabric by dunking it in a bucket of water. Squeeze out the excess moisture. Lay fabric across your plastic sheet, without flattening it out – the bubbles and ridges formed between fabric and plastic will determine the pattern in your colours. Drop on your chosen colours, diluted with water. Choose three or four colours that go well together. Your pattern will form as the colours run along the bubbles in the plastic; then, as the water dries, the colours will expand, filling any white areas left in your fabric. Avoid being tempted to put on too much colour, as any excess can cause stiffening in the fabric. Allow the fabric to sit on the plastic until almost dry; then lift it carefully off the plastic and peg it on the line to dry completely. Drying time will vary with the weather, but allow 1 to 2 hours, depending on the original wetness of the fabric, and the type of fabric you are colouring.

SALT TEXTURING: The finer the salt you use, and the finer the fabric you are working on, the finer the markings will be. Conversely, the coarser the salt, the bigger the markings will be. You can find many different grades (or sizes) of salt. Try rock / sea salt, available in supermarkets, for use in salt grinders; cooking salt or table salt, for really fine markings, but are suitable for use on very fine fabrics like silk only; and pool salt, which also gives medium sized markings. Try also Epsom salts, and different sugars for interesting markings.

METHOD:

- Apply colour and water mix to your fabric by your chosen method.
- While paint is still wet, sprinkle on your chosen salt. Note that if the paint is too wet, the salt will 'drown'; but if the colour is too dry, nothing much will happen! With a little experimentation, you will establish just when to put on your salt for best results.
- Please remember that "Working with salt is at best random!" ... and is usually very exciting, as you never quite know what will happen !!
- Leave the salt to work in your fabric. To use my favourite saying here: *Watching your salt work is about as exciting as watching your kettle boil ...* But move away from it for a few minutes, then when you return to have a look, it's ... **WOW !!**
- When the salt has finished its work, and your fabric is almost dry, remove the salt then dry it out and store it for re-use. Any colour remaining in the salt, unless very dark, will not affect your future work.
- When you are sure the fabric is completely dry, rinse the remaining saltiness out of your fabric by dunking it gently up and down in a bucket of water. This will prevent it from continuing to absorb moisture from the atmosphere. Rinse fabric a second, and even a third time, to remove the salty water. Do not squeeze or wring your fabric at this stage. Allow it to drip dry. It is then ready to be heat set when completely dry.
- *Liquid Radiance* colours must be heat set. Cover with a soft cloth (eg an old linen tea towel) and iron for ½ to 2 minutes with your iron on "Wool" setting. (The paler the colour, the longer you need to iron to set the colour.)
- After working with salting techniques, be sure to wash any spilt salt from your work cloths. Be careful not to let other pieces of silk or fabric come in contact with your salty work or work cloths, as this can cause maybe unwanted salt textured markings in them even before you work on them!

HELIOGRAPHY: By colouring your fabrics and putting them in the sun to dry, you can achieve interesting 'block out' effects by placing objects or stencil shapes onto the fabric while it is still wet, and before you put it in the sun. The areas under the 'block-outs' will become very pale-to-white, while the exposed coloured areas strengthen in colour.

Our qualified Genesis Creations™ Teachers will be delighted to help you explore these exciting techniques further ... as will I. But for now ...

Enjoy these stunningly simple techniques!

**Unique Concepts for Your Creativity
in Silk Painting and Fabric Design**

HINT: In humid or damp weather prepare your salt by drying it in the oven for 20 minutes; then store it in an airtight container when cool.