

Poles and Grids - Some Images to Extend Your Thinking – and Inspire

A few interesting pointers for ALL to see and learn about, no matter when you're exploring these techniques, or whatever the weather on the day (or night!)

For everyone to enjoy, even if you haven't attended the Web Workshops or seen my YouTube presentations ... yet!



Bags ... fabrics ... garments ... whatever you are colouring on poles ... will need to be held in place using rubber bands. The markings from these bands will become part of the finished design, so take care when placing them, especially on shirts!

Both bags were spray painted. [See Web Workshop – Intro 2 – for how to do this].

Orange / red / magenta bag was positioned straight down the pole and then coloured. Cyan / green / lime bag was twisted on the pole, then sprayed straight down the pole to give it the diagonal end result. Allow to dry completely before removing from pole.

Don't clutter up the environment with gift wrapping paper !!! Bags are wonderful gift wrappings, and are useful too, even if they are re-gifted.



MY FAVOURITE SPRAY PAINTING DILUTION: Somewhere between 1 part Liquid Radiance concentrate to 20 parts water and 1:30 with water. Colour strength is your choice! Use craft paper test to check colour strength.



FABRIC COLOURED FIRST THEN WOUND ON THE BIAS ONTO THE POLE:

Liquid Radiance black diluted 1:10 with water.

Points to remember:

- Don't be concerned that the fabric will be grey when first coloured. It will darken as it dries.
- What is exposed to the air will become darker, and what is enclosed will be lighter, so the bigger the pole, the wider the area of dark markings.
- On the large image at left, the bottom right-hand corner was where the two layers overlapped. It still has the same markings as the darker layer.
- Do not dry it in the sun! If dried too quickly the pattern in the lower layers will not have time to develop.

LET ME 'SET THE SCENE' FOR THE IMAGE AT RIGHT:
It's Toowoomba Carnival of

Flowers time, and I'm conducting demonstrations and mini-hands-on workshops in a local Church Hall while the ladies 'do their thing' with stalls, and Devonshire teas. It's POURING with rain outside, so there are very few people coming into the hall. What can we do to amuse ourselves (besides drink tea and eat scones)? Let's do some shirts instead of socks! Socks were on program so THAT gear was with me. But what can we find for the shirts? Plenty of empty 2 litre milk bottles bound together bottom to bottom made perfect poles. Then we had to find something to hold them upright. The big teapots were perfect. See what you can find in YOUR cupboards too !!!





Points to remember when working on grids – and they can be anything with appropriate holes in them really!

- Work from the centre of the fabric outwards, without dislodging the area/s previously poked. You'll be amazed just how big a piece of fabric will fit onto something large like a bread crate (shown at left).
- The fabric needs to be poked firmly into the grid, but not so far down that it touches the surface or plastic covered board under the grid.
- Use a poking object appropriate for the size of the holes. You need to be able to pull out the 'poker' without dragging the fabric with it.
- Poke randomly or in a pattern, depending on what you are aiming to achieve. Well does it really matter? The results will still be great!
- Colour first then poke OR poke first then colour. If poking first, apply colours by tapping the dispenser cap along the bars of the grid sections. Watch and wait. Apply more colour if necessary. It is tricky to try to blot our excess / 'enemy' from the bottom of the 'holes'. If colouring first then poking, you will have blotted or squeezed out any excess before poking the fabric into the grid.
- If poking first then colouring, lay a piece of dry absorbent fabric across the top of the grid to blot out any excess.

FABRIC ON A COLANDER? Why not! It has holes !!! The design created is amazing, as you can see from these images. But finding something to use as a poker was the challenge. A satay stick went through the holes just fine, but didn't budge when the fabric was over the end of the stick! The pointy end of the satay stick was fine too, but poked right through the fabric. Take a little of point end off the sharp end maybe? Yes that worked perfectly. After poking, fabric was coloured randomly, then left in place until it was perfectly dry.

The fun in doing all of these techniques is discovering the real beauty when the fabric is ironed to reveal your creations.



Liquid Radiance is a paint formulation that performs like a dye in the fabric – BUT IS NOT A DYE.

When Liquid Radiance is DRY in the fabric, you CANNOT MOVE IT or REMOVE IT.

Colours are non-toxic and non-polluting, so you Can use things from your cupboards quite safely. Simply wash then before reusing for food.



Happy creating ...

Anne

... and don't miss the last page ...

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Make sure you catch up with these techniques on YouTube if you haven't attended the Advanced Web Workshops via Zoom with me.

Here's my favourite cake cooling grid being used to create a flower garden ... fabric randomly poked using my little finger – it's always handy - then coloured and blotted (smaller piece of fabric top right). A similarly coloured piece is seen below, ironed to reveal the design.

