

FABRIC FUN WITH PAINTSTIKS

What? Paintstiks (PS) are linseed oil and pigment in a crayon-type stick form.

How? Peel off the filmy skin that covers the exposed surface, with a paper towel or small knife. To expose more of the paint, pull the cardboard sleeve apart, keeping it intact, so that you have the full-size sleeve to hold onto.

Basic Design Techniques

1. Apply the color either directly to the fabric, or use a brush. See how they blend and vary depending on fabric color. Use a mask or stencil, or paint freehand.
2. Add texture by **rubbing PS onto the fabric, taped to a raised decorative surface**: one image and one color; one image, multiple colors; multiple images, multiple colors. Items used for rubbing designs include:
 - a. Purchased rubbing plates, or stamps (from scrapbooking)
 - b. Household decorative objects, made of tile or metal
 - c. Handmade surfaces
 - d. Found objects -- this is the most FUN
3. Use Paintstiks to simulate appliqué, to color or apply images to a whole-cloth quilt, or to add an image over a pieced quilt.

Heat-Setting to Make The Designs Permanent

1. PS designs may dry to the touch within 24 hours, but **let them cure for 3-5 days** (longer, if paint application was heavy).
2. In heat-setting, you must raise the temperature high enough to complete the chemical reaction that is part of the paint drying process. **Use the highest temperature appropriate for your fabric.**
3. On your ironing surface, lay one or more **layers of grease-proof paper**, such as parchment paper or brown Kraft paper, to keep any excess oil from staining through.
4. Lay the fabric on the paper, **paint side down**.

5. If the fabric is delicate, lay a pressing cloth over it, before applying the iron.
6. With the iron, **press (don't iron)** each section of the fabric for 10-15 seconds. If you have large fabric pieces, put it in the clothes dryer for 30 minutes on the highest setting, **BUT** only if you are sure the paint is completely dry.
7. **Hand or machine wash the fabric in cold water**; use a low dryer setting or line dry.

Cleaning Up

1. To clean brushes, soak in a solvent, such as paint thinner, an orange-based solvent called Citra-Solv, or automotive degreaser; or lather them up with Cedar Canyon's Brush Soap. Brush the paint onto paper towels, and when most of the paint is removed, wash brushes with soap and water, and dry completely.
2. To clean (both sides of) plastic stencils, mist them with Citra-Solv or DK5 (adhesive remover), and wipe with a soft cloth. Soap and water may also be needed.

Sources

Art Quilts at Play, by Jane Davila and Elin Waterston, p. 51-2.

The Complete Photo Guide to Textile Art, by Susan Stein, pp.60-9.

Design Magic, by Shelly Stokes, Cedar Canyon Textiles, 2010.

Paintstiks on Fabric, by Shelley Stokes, Cedar Canyon Textiles, 2005

www.cedarcanyontextiles.com -- the primary source for Paintstiks

Other (possibly cheaper) sources: www.dickblick.com ; www.hotcraft.com ; www.dharmatrading.com

Pat Steel, 12/ 2018, for Ocean Waves Quilt Guild, Pre-Meeting Demo