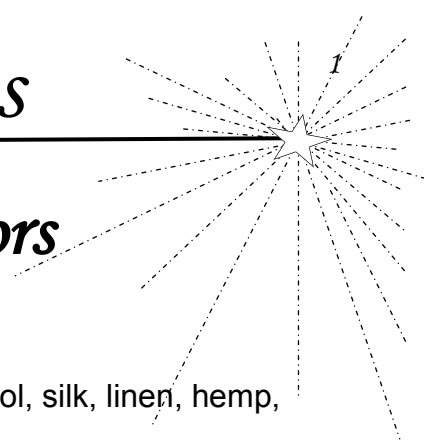


Enchanted Valley Arts

Using Inks & Applicators

General Information - Tsukineko Products



Fabric: Inks, markers and stamp pads work on all natural fibers (cotton, wool, silk, linen, hemp, ramie, jute) including wood and paper.

Fabric needs to be pre-washed and pressed without use of fabric softener, dryer sheet, or spray starch.

Inks work best on light colored fabric but can also be used with some success on dark colors if undercoated with white.

Tsukineko All Purpose Inks are water based, non toxic, and acid free. Most are slightly transparent, similar to watercolor, (a little of the background color with show through the ink). White and metallic colors have a pigment added making them opaque. Give every bottle a little shake before opening it and give those with the rattle an extra shake or two. (A small bead helps keep the pigment suspended.) After opening the bottle set it in a small plastic container or return it to the work station. Whatever magic substance these paints are made of is very light and it doesn't take much to tip them over. Putting open bottles in a container allows you to contain a spill and pour it back into the bottle minimizing both clean up and waste. If caught immediately spills on surrounding surfaces can be removed with baby wipes and/or soap and water. API can be applied with Fantastix applicators, daubers, sponges, brushes, or stamps.

Make ink permanent by heat setting with a hot dry iron. Match iron setting to fabric type (cotton = cotton setting, etc.) Place a paper towel under the piece and another paper towel over the top. Put the dry iron down on top of "sandwich" and move it around until the area is so hot you can't leave your hand on it. Paper towels may be used over and over. (If color transfers to the towels... it's been heat set and won't transfer to another project.) Note: Fabrico Markers and Versacraft Stamp Pads are permanent on contact and do not need to be heat set.

Fabrico Markers: contain a product similar to the API but are permanent on contact. (No heat setting needed) Pen numbers start with "1" and the last two numbers coordinate with numbering for ink and stamp pad colors. Each pen has two tips, one short firm tip and another long, brush like tip. Note the size of the caps, one is smaller than the other. *If you put the smaller tip on the brush end it will crush the point.* Listen for a click when you close them to be sure they are air tight. **Always store pens horizontally.**

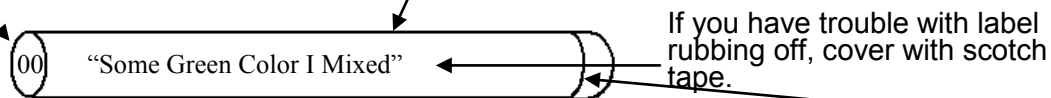
Versacraft Stamp Pads: contain a product similar to the API but are permanent on contact. (No heat setting needed) Colors, however, are more opaque than API. As with the Fabrico Markers identification numbers start with "1" and the last two numbers coordinate with both Fabrico Markers and API. This product can be used with stamps, of course, as well as applicators. The pad surface can be used to coat items (leaves for example) for pressing as well as rubbings (similar to paint sticks).

Fantastix Applicators: are available in two styles, bullet tip and brush tip. They are used to apply ink to surfaces and as a blending tool. The rounded (bullet) tip is excellent for covering large areas. The pointed (brush) tip is ideal for details and small areas. Applicators can be used over and over. Replace the cap when finished and they're ready for next time. No cleanup!

After repeated use the tips lose the "oomph" and need to be replaced. Remember the old saying "A new broom sweeps clean"? Same goes here.

If you have trouble trying to keep some of the caps on, wrapping a piece of scotch tape around the end will solve the problem.

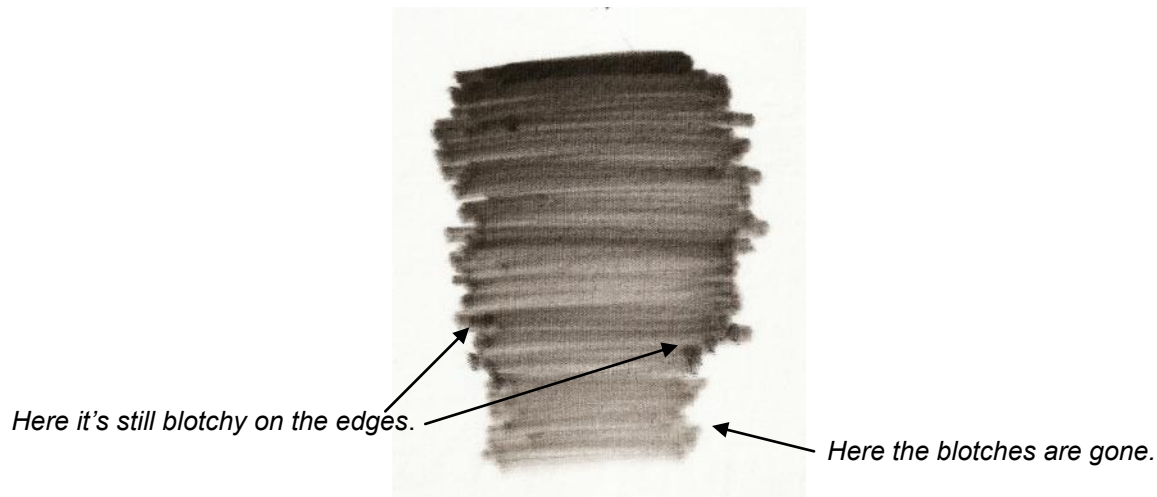
Organize, use, & store applicators: Assign Fantastix® applicators, (one bullet and one brush tip) to each color and keep them *for that color only*. Mark the end of each applicator using a fine point felt pen with the color number of the ink bottle or mix name. I also mark the side of my applicators.



After transferring design, inks can be used to fill in project much like coloring in a color book. Load an applicator by dipping it in the ink only as far as the plastic edge.

Soft crayon affect: can be achieved by removing some of the ink from the applicator before using it on fabric. Using a piece of scrap fabric as a "rub cloth" follow the instructions below.

Start rubbing back & forth here on a rub cloth with a freshly dipped applicator.



The color will now come off the applicator and look like you are coloring with a crayon at medium pressure. The more you rub in one area the darker it will become. Build up dark places in layers by heat setting in between. You can always add more, but you can't take it off. **ALWAYS check an applicator on a rub cloth BEFORE you use it.** You may not have to reload and it will avoid any nasty surprises on your project.

Using applicators with markers and stamp pads: Rubbing or tapping a marker on a hard plastic surface will release enough ink to pick up with an applicator. Tapping an applicator in a stamp pad will transfer pigment to the applicator. Use them the same way you use ink filled applicators. This is helpful when you want a color only available in the stamp pad or marker but you want to apply it with a Fantastix.)

Color layering: Start with a light coating and build up density with several layers. On light backgrounds I generally apply inks working lightest color to darkest color with the exception of white. On light fabric I add white last... sometimes - each design is a unique set of circumstances. In many cases I leave the white of the fabric as the “white” putting no color at all in that spot. On dark fabric use white first to undercoat then heat set. Color can be applied over the white base, making it stand out against the dark background. Always experiment on a scrap of your chosen fabric before beginning actual project.

Making a tinted wash: Using clear (not green) Aloe Vera Gel with All Purpose Inks allows you to use them as a lightly tinted wash. Thinning inks with water causes them to bleed when they contact the fabric. With an eye dropper add a couple of drops of API to a scoop of aloe vera gel on a non-porous paper plate and mix with a plastic spoon. Extra mix can be stored in airtight containers.

Using Shaving Cream: A dab of shaving cream mixed with ink will thicken it so it can be used as a silk screening medium and as a stencil paint. Use it to create marbling affects by spreading a thin layer of shaving cream on a plate or cleanable surface. Add dots of ink, then streak it with narrow stick (coffee stir stick or skewer). Pat fabric into inked shaving cream, pull away piece and scrape away extra foam with craft stick or spatula. The design has transferred to the fabric.

Other hints:

Because inks are semi-transparent, layering one color over another will change the color, i.e. yellow over light blue will create a green tint. Likewise, putting yellow ink on light blue fabric will make the yellow ink appear green.

Colors opposite one another on the color wheel are great options for shading. For example... To shade green, try a warm brown, any of the reds, or an orange over green... see how it changes things.

Use the scraps of your actual base fabric to test colors. Because the colors are semi-transparent they look different on different fabrics.

If you think you've made a mistake. Keep going...

- Sometimes making the area around a bleed or “too dark place” darker will fix everything.
- This is a time when you “blame something else” for the problem. Look around see what can change “over there”.
- Take it into a different light. Fluorescent lights can do funny things.
- If application seems streaky or blotchy stroke one direction then come back again another direction.
- Put it on the design board or pin it to the wall and step back.
- Walk away for a minute, get a drink, use the restroom then have another look.. eat some chocolate.
- Whenever you are going to appliqué a piece ink it first. (That way if you decide it really didn't turn out you can do it over... without ripping!)