

THE ART SHERPA™

PRESENTS

BEGINNERS ACRYLIC PAINTING COURSE

ACRYLIC PAINT

The Basics



ACRYLIC PAINT, THE BASICS - NOVEMBER 2021

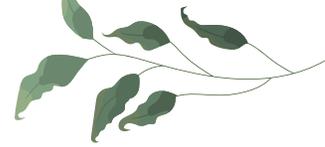


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VIDEO CHAPTER GUIDE:

Below are the timestamps we inserted in the tutorial video so that you can easily coordinate using the book and the tutorial video simultaneously.

STEPS:	TIME:	DESCRIPTION:
INTRO		
STEP 1	2:16	THE GOOD AND THE BAD
STEP 2	8:50	WHY ACRYLIC PAINT IS SPECIAL
STEP 3	10:05	WHAT ACRYLIC PAINT IS MADE OF
STEP 4	13:31	HOW DOES PAINT DRY?
STEP 5	15:51	3...2...1 PAINT LEVELS
STEP 6	23:28	PAINT BODY
STEP 7	25:20	TYPES OF ACRYLIC PAINT
STEP 8	27:34	PAINT PACKAGING
STEP 9	28:27	HOW TO READ A TUBE OF PAINT
STEP 10	30:41	PAINT GONE BAD
STEP 11	34:17	DO'S AND DON'TS OF ACRYLICS
STEP 12	37:21	CINNAMON'S PAINT PICKS
STEP 13	42:59	NEXT UP





STEP ONE - THE GOOD AND THE BAD

ALL OF THE INFORMATION I SHARE WITH YOU IS BASED ON MY YEARS OF RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE WITH ACRYLIC PAINT.

While I will provide my personal recommendations in this series, again, this is based on my experience with products and may not be the same as your experience. If you use a product that I don't mention as being one of my recommendations, I want to remind you that if a product or tool works for you, and you get the result that you are looking for, and you are happy, it's not broken. There is no need to fix anything. Artists tend to stay true to products that work for them, and as an artist, I'm no different.

I want to talk about the good and the bad aspects of acrylic paint.

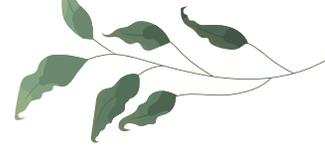
Let's start with the pros:

- IT HAS A VARIETY OF PRICES TO MEET EVERYONE'S BUDGET
- ALLOWS FOR EASE OF USE IN THE HOME
- IT'S EASY TO LEARN
- WIDELY AVAILABLE IN SOME FORM WHERE YOU RESIDE
- LOTS OF EDUCATION AND RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOU
- IS VERY VERSATILE IN NATURE

- MANY MEDIUMS CAN BE ADDED TO ACRYLIC PAINT
- COMES IN MANY COLORS
- ALLOWS FOR EASY SURFACE PREPARATION IN ORDER TO PAINT
- DRIES QUICKLY
- THINS WITH WATER
- CLEANS UP EASILY
- ALL BRANDS OF ACRYLIC PAINT FROM CRAFT PAINT TO STUDENT, TO HEAVY BODY CAN BE INTERMIXED IN ONE PAINTING
- MOSTLY NON-TOXIC

Just like where there is shadows, so is there light; when we have a pro, we typically have a con:

- DRIES FAST, WHICH CAN BE A TWO EDGED SWORD, BECAUSE YOU CAN HAVE TROUBLE BLENDING BECAUSE IT DRIES FAST
- WILL NOT REACTIVATE WHEN DRY
- BECAUSE IT IS A SYNTHETIC PRODUCT, IT SOMETIMES REQUIRES EXTRA CARE
- IS TEMPERATURE SENSITIVE TO HOT AND/OR COLD
- THERE IS NO UNIFORM STANDARD IN THE INDUSTRY AS TO COLORS
- WILL NOT MIX WITH OILS YOU CAN PAINT OIL OVER DRY ACRYLIC, BUT NOT ACRYLIC OVER OIL; DO NOT MIX UP YOUR BRUSHES, EITHER
- IS VERY HARD ON BRUSHES
- THERE IS A LOT OF MIS-INFORMATION AVAILABLE. I ALWAYS RECOMMEND THAT ANY STUDENT/BUYER SHOULD BE BEWARE AND RESEARCH ANY PRODUCT YOU INTEND TO. A GOOD EXAMPLE IS THAT YOU SHOULD NEVER TAKE A PANE OF GLASS OUT OF A PICTURE FRAME TO USE AS A PAINT PALETTE UNLESS YOU WANT TO VISIT AN EMERGENCY ROOM. IT IS NOT TEMPERED GLASS



STEP TWO - WHY ACRYLIC PAINT IS SPECIAL

ACRYLIC PAINT IS ALMOST A CHAMELEON BECAUSE IT IS WATER SOLUBLE AND THE VERSATILITY OF THE PRODUCT WILL ALLOW YOU TO DO ALMOST ANYTHING YOU DESIRE IN AN ART FORM.



STEP THREE - WHAT ACRYLIC PAINT IS MADE OF

ACRYLIC POLYMER EMULSION - PIGMENT PUT IN POLYMER WITH CHEMICALS TO BECOME PAINT.

In acrylic paint, there is pigment which is put into polymer with chemicals to make the paint and one of the magics that happens is that it dries at room temperature because it has an initiator. It also has buffers like ammonia that makes everything stable over time and defoamers to counterbalance the mix, preservatives to protect against the growth of microorganisms and thickeners to get the paint to the desired body weight.

RHEOLOGY - THE BRANCH OF PHYSICS THAT DEALS WITH THE DEFORMATION AND FLOW OF MATTER, ESPECIALLY THE NON-NEWTONIAN FLOW OF LIQUIDS AND THE PLASTIC FLOW OF SOLIDS.

Each acrylic company has its own formula for their paint.





STEP FOUR - HOW DOES PAINT DRY

OILS CURE OVER TIME AND WATERCOLOR EVAPORATES. ACRYLICS DRY BY EVAPORATION OF WATER AND OTHER VOLATILES FROM THE PAINT FILM.

A thin application usually requires about 24 hrs to fully dry; while a thick application can take weeks. Thickness matters and even if it feels dry, it probably is not totally dry.

Varnish is no longer considered essential for every acrylic painting but does increase the beautification and longevity of the paint.

STEP FIVE - 3...2...1 PAINT LEVELS

ACRYLIC COMES IN THREE LEVELS AND EACH LEVEL SPEAKS TO THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCT IN THE CONTAINER WHICH ALSO DESCRIBES THE COST OF THE PRODUCT.

Not all paint manufacturers offer all grades.

- 3 PROFESSIONAL
- 2 ARTIST GRADE
- 1 STUDENT

Craft paint would be a student paint and there is some hostility in the art world about using craft paint. My take on this is that craft paint is real acrylic paint that real artists use. Some craft paint companies even offer an artist level in their line.

One of my favorites is Deco Arts American Acrylic.

Student paint has the lowest pigment to binder ratio, is not as uniform, or as fluid, is a little softer in body and not equivalent to professional

colors in most cases; sometimes requires more paint application to cover. My favorite student line is Sennelier Abstract Acrylic Paint.

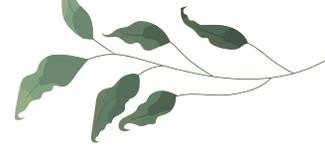
Artist grade paint is sometimes called economy pro; has more pigment than student, but not as much as professional, can shrink a bit during drying; colors are a little more muted, has more fillers in the paint and probably has gone less times through the milling process. Usually all colors are at one price.

In professional paint, the cost jumps up, because it requires more effort to manufacture, materials are harder to find and more expensive, uses more pigment, requires very little binder; and tends to use pure cadmium in the cad colors. Pricing depends on the color and the ingredients in it.

A hue is the color LIKE the pigment but it is NOT the pigment, but it does drop the cost.

IN MY OPINION, THE MOST IMPORTANT COLOR TO UPGRADE IS TITANIUM WHITE.





STEP SIX - PAINT BODY

PAINT BODY MIGHT BE CONFUSING BECAUSE PAINT DOES NOT HAVE ARMS AND LEGS, BUT ACRYLIC PAINT DOES HAVE BODY.

HEAVY BODY

Thick, modified with water; does not shrink as it dries; more challenging to blend. Acrylique by Senneier is a heavy body acrylic.

SOFT BODY

Smoother, Abstract by Senneier is soft body, but has more body in it than most soft body paints; it's like yogurt and sometimes comes in bottles, as with Golden Paints Fluid Body Acrylic line.

INKS

Pigment in a thin water ink body. The color is lush with no loss but you can use this paint in airbrush or fluid art needs



STEP SEVEN - TYPES OF ACRYLIC PAINT

OPEN PAINT

dries slower and allows you a longer time to work before it dries. It usually requires 24-48 hrs to dry unless you accelerate the drying time.

INTERACTIVE ACRYLIC

Slow Drying Additives like: Golden Acrylic Glazing Liquid
Golden Acrylic Glazing Liquid is a slow-drying acrylic medium originally. Can be blended with house paints and artist acrylic paints to create an incredible variety of color glazes.

ACRYLIC GOUACHE

Flatly pigmented with smooth easily brushed finish. It is not gouache really; gouache is opaque watercolor, is a water-medium paint consisting of natural pigment, water, a binding agent usually gum arabic

All these bodies come in all 3 tiers, and all tiers can be intermixed.





STEP EIGHT - PAINT PACKAGING

ACRYLIC PAINT COMES IN JARS, POUCHES, AND PLASTIC OR METAL TUBES.

When purchasing paint, inspect the product to assure that the packaging is not damaged as damage to the package can affect the paint quality. Especially inspect the metal tubes.



STEP NINE - MATERIALS

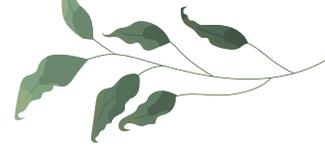
BE SURE TO READ THE PACKAGING SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GETTING. THIS IS HOW THE PAINT MANUFACTURER COMMUNICATES WITH YOU. YOU WANT TO LOOK THESE MARKINGS ON THE PACKAGE:

- THE VISUAL COLOR
- THE MANUFACTURER'S COLOR NAME (COMMON COLOR NAME)
- THE PIGMENT NAMES & NUMBERS
- THE SERIES # (THE PRICE GROUP, WHICH DEPENDS ON THE INGREDIENTS)
- THE OPAQUE LEVEL (IS IT TRANSPARENT OR OPAQUE)
- THE LIGHTFASTNESS (EXCELLENT/GOOD/POOR)
- THE MANUFACTURER'S COMPANY INFORMATION, AND LAST, BUT NOT LEASE
- THE SAFETY INFORMATION.

You should check to make sure the cap is also in good working order.

I highly recommend that you take a moment and read ASTM guidelines which are the safety standards for the industry.





STEP TEN - PAINT GONE BAD

AIR AND EXTREME TEMPERATURE RUINS ACRYLIC PAINT. IF THE PACKAGING IS DAMAGED, AIR COULD HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE PACKAGING, SO DON'T BUY IT.

Heavy body paint is warm and buttery in consistency; the color is fully incorporated into the body without separation.

Any paint that has a weird or foul odor should be returned. Paint that looks like cottage cheese should be returned.

Paint where there is clear liquid and areas of noticeable pigment can be reincorporated.

This is called separation.

Paint should typically last 5-7 years. You can increase the life of your paint by putting the cap back on the package every time you paint.

I have used several brands of paint and not experienced paint troubles so far. That is one of my criteria when I recommend paint. The other is about their customer service; if they don't provide good customer service, I don't recommend them.

A good paint company should care about your experience and that is important to me.

STEP ELEVEN - DO'S AND DON'TS OF ACRYLIC

DO:

- KEEP TUBES CAPPED
- WIPE DOWN THE THREADS
- WASH YOUR BRUSHES AFTER EVERY SESSION WITH SOAP AND WARM WATER
- READ ALL PAINT LABELS AND RESPECT WARNINGS

DO NOT:

- THROW OUT TUBES OF WET PAINT; ALLOW THEM TO DRY WITH THE CAP OFF
- HEAT YOUR PAINT
- ADD GLUE
- ADD OIL
- FREEZE
- KEEP MOLDED PAINT





STEP TWELVE - CINNAMON'S PAINT PICKS

I RECOMMEND THAT YOU GO TO MY WEBSITE AT WWW.THEARTSHERPA.COM AND READ MY BLOG ABOUT PAINT RECOMMENDATIONS.

It has a lot more information that may assist you in selecting the brand of acrylic paint you want to use.

My top acrylic paint manufacturer's are:

SENNELIER

Very old company; store in downtown Paris, can have paint made just like the masters did. Comes in Aquarelle - Professional Line, Abstract - Student Line, and an acrylic ink line. I encourage you to visit their North American Distributor Pierre at Savoir Faire for some great online resources.

GOLDEN ARTIST COLORS

Sam Golden's son, Mark, still is part of this employee owned business. I encourage you to visit their website JustPaint.org to check out tons of information every artists needs.

HOLBEIN

A Japanese company with great products and mediums.

M GRAHAM

Great line of acrylic paints

AMSTERDAM ACRYLICS

Several lines of products.

MATISSE

Australian line which is great - their ochre is ethically sourced

ARTIST LOFT

(Michaels) Level 3 Professional Line (not all lines).

PEBEO

Another recommended line.

STEP THIRTEEN - NEXT UP

CHECK OUT MY WEBSITE FOR ABOUT 1800 TUTORIALS DESIGNED FOR ALL LEVELS OF ARTISTS AND NUMEROUS BLOGS ABOUT PRODUCTS.

OUR NEXT CLASS IN THIS BEGINNER SERIES IS BRUSHES; YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT.

Q & A SESSION

I GOT SENNELIER ABSTRACT MATTE PRIMARY SET FROM AMAZON. WILL THAT WORK FOR THE PRIMARY PAINT SET?

Yes

DO PAINT COMPANIES LIST THE "LEVEL" ON THEIR LABELS?

Usually

DO YOU RETURN BAD PAINT TO THE ART STORE YOU BOUGHT IT FROM OR DO YOU CALL THE MANUFACTURER?

Try the retail store first, then contact the manufacturer if you don't get satisfaction.

Q & A SESSION CONTINUED

WHAT VIDEO SHOWS HOW TO DISPOSE OF PAINT WATER?

We covered a lot of this in The How To Set Up An Art Studio Video, the 2nd video in the series.

WILL YOU HAVE MINI BOOKS FOR THE SERIES?

Yes, we are creating mini books.

WHAT MEDIUM SHOULD I USE IF I WANT MY ACRYLICS TO BLOOM LIKE THE QOR WATERCOLORS? I WANT TO CREATE A WASH EFFECT.

Golden Wetting Agent is a much more powerful tool, but ox gall would increase the bloom in thinned acrylic.

WHY ARE MY COLORS KIND OF FLAT NOT AS COLORFUL?

Not all paint is created equal. It depends on the level and brand of paint that you are using. Craft paint and student level paint requires more paint and is not as pigmented as a professional level paint. Cad paints are brighter than hues of cadmium paints. Also, it could have to do with the lighting in your studio or if you are using dirty water. Are you working with a paint that has a hidden bias in it that you don't know about. All of this could impact what you are seeing. It's rare that you have messed up.

CAN YOU MIX HEAVY AND SOFT BODY PAINTS TOGETHER?

Yes, you can.

SOMETIMES I HAVE TROUBLE PAINTING OVER THE ACRYLIC GROUND. IT IS LIKE IT IS SUPER STICKY AND I CAN'T GET THE PAINT TO FLOW EVEN IF I THIN THE PAINT OR ADD THE GOLDEN MEDIUM YOU RECOMMEND. ANY THOUGHTS?
I'd suggest contacting Golden and asking them for assistance.

WHAT DOES PAINT BODY MEAN?

It describes whether the paint is thick or thin; it refers to the thickness and flow of the paint.

WHERE CAN I GET THE ABSTRACT BRAND PAINT PORCHES; I LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN IN CANADA?

Kings Framing and check the Savoir Faire website for their Canadian vendors.

DOES HEAVY BODY PAINT CONTAIN MORE PIGMENT THAN THE OTHERS?

Yes

DOES DRYING ACRYLIC PAINT WITH A HAIR DRYER CAUSE POISON GASSES TO BE CREATED?

As I understand it, the hair dryer does not get to the degree that it would, especially if you keep the dryer on low heat. But temperature does affect paint and color shift can happen.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF MASTER'S TOUCH PAINTS?

They do have customer service and they will answer any emails; can have cottage cheese issues in their paint, but they will usually rectify. Their caps are wonderful. I don't recommend their basics.

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