

THE ART SHERPA™

PRESENTS

BEGINNERS ACRYLIC PAINTING COURSE

PAINTING

Surfaces



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	1:53	MEAT OF THE CANVAS - AKA BEGINNER SURFACES
STEP 2	5:40	INTO THE DETAILS
STEP 3	11:33	PARTS OF A CANVAS
STEP 4	14:11	PAPER
STEP 5	15:35	PAPER PREP DEMO
STEP 6	36:37	COMMON SURFACE PROBLEMS
STEP 7	42:42	REPAINTING SURFACES
STEP 8	46:53	REPAIR A TEAR IN A CANVAS
STEP 9	48:08	ONLINE VS. INSTORE





STEP ONE - MEAT OF THE CANVAS: A.K.A. BEGINNER SURFACES

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

CANVAS VS BOARDS VS PAPER

CANVAS

- Traditional surface with lots of resources available to learn from
- Easy to frame and hang
- Has a lovely spring back and helps in learning brush pressure for beginners

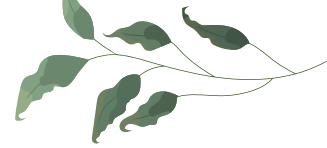
BOARDS

- You can find cheap to very expensive, big price range
- Easy to frame
- Easy to make at home
- Many kinds from particle (cheap) to ampersand (speciality boards)

PAPER

- Easy to use
- Frames like watercolor because it must be matted
- Easy to prepare at home
- Lots of ways to use - sheets, board, art journals
- Allows for techniques not normal for canvas, as in multimedia applications
- When using a journal, you will want to finish with Dorland's Wax Medium to prevent pages from sticking together
- Cheap





STEP TWO - INTO THE DETAILS

I want to give you a good understanding about canvases so that you can make informed purchases and make the most of your financial resources so let's talk about finished canvases versus stretching your own canvas. I do recommend that if you are a beginner painter, that you do not attempt to stretch your own canvases until you have a few paintings under your belt. As with types of surfaces, both canvas presentations can have pros and cons.

FINISHED

- Hard to control the quality and can cost more
- Readily available
- Most is for acrylic paint application and comes pre-gessoed
- Available in white and color
- Some are for a specific media, like oil, so read a package

UNFINISHED

- Requires an initial investment in tools like stretchers and pliers
- Canvas is bought by the roll
- Allows for you to choose the size of the painting rather than go with a standard size
- Save money over time
- Don't usually need to gesso the canvas. Gesso is used when you want to substantially change the surface



STEP THREE - PARTS OF THE CANVAS

THE MATERIAL & THE DRUM

The material & drum combine to form the painting surface.

STRETCHERS

Stretchers are thick or thin wood bars; if thick you would paint the sides of the canvas.

FOLDS

Folds are the corners of the canvas on the side; do not get cut corners.

STAPLES

Staples are generally found on the back, and if so, the canvas is called a gallery wrap.

KEYS

Keys are spacer bars inserted between the drum on the back to resquare the drum.





STEP FOUR - PAPER

THE AREAS I WANT TO COVER IN THIS TUTORIAL ARE LISTED BELOW AND I WILL BE DEMONSTRATING TECHNIQUE IN THE NEXT STEP.

1. Acrylic paper vs watercolor paper vs canvas paper.
2. How to prep paper for painting.
3. Painting on watercolor paper in the watercolor style. Remember that if you want a tooth or bumpy finish on the watercolor paper, you choose cold press; if you want a smooth finish, you choose hot press.

STEP FIVE - PAPER PREP DEMO

Most of you have already used an acrylic canvas. You can use acrylic paper or you can easily prep 140# 300 mg Watercolor Paper to be used with acrylic paint as easily. Canvas also comes in a pad of canvas sheets cut to standard sizes and ready for acrylic paint application.

Watercolor paper is available in a pad "block" which means it is lightly glued on four sides to prevent serious warping of the paper and allow it to dry in size.

For the demonstration, I used a hog brush with a red, yellow, blue, white and gesso on the palette and I wanted to show you how to prep this watercolor to receive acrylic paint and also show you why you would need to prep watercolor for acrylic paint.

I used a hot press, loose piece of watercolor paper, and wet the surface with a

big brush, turned the paper over and taped it down with low tack artist tape to my desk. I used tape to divide the canvas into 3 parts. The first method is lower left, the second method is lower right, and I will demonstrate acrylic paint being used as watercolor on the top.

THE FIRST METHOD will be to seal the paper with GAC-100 Golden Multi-Purpose Acrylic Polymer, which also works on masonboard. If I can't get GAC - I get Liquitex Gloss Medium Varnish. Use the polymer and coat the paper; one coat is fine, but you can do 2. Let dry between layers. Get white gesso and coat the area with horizontal strokes and let dry. Add more gesso, but vertically, and let dry. The fourth layer, third of gesso, is applied diagonally and allowed to dry. You could sand in between these gesso layers if you want a glassy surface. Dry. You may note that gesso is moist and the paper may waff, but give it a bit and let it dry. It will settle. You are now able to apply acrylic paint over this area and get a great result.

THE SECOND METHOD is using white acrylic paint because acrylic paint adheres to acrylic and acrylic seals the paper. Let dry. Add another coat of acrylic paint. Dry. Add a third coat and let dry.

BTW - the online recipes for gesso are not correct. Just buy it.

I used my brush to apply acrylic paint in the section that is not sealed; it does not cover well. It's streaky. The paint went further and smoother on the acrylic paint seal and on the GAC seal area.

ACRYLIC PAINT LIKE WATERCOLOR

Apply a layer of water on the paper and thin the acrylic paint with water as well, then apply the colors to the moist paper. Like watercolor, it does bloom, but it does not reactivate after it is dried.



STEP SIX - COMMON SURFACE PROBLEMS

HOW TO FIX SAGGY CANVAS

- Mist the back and allow it to dry
- Use the canvas keys

HOW TO FIX A WARPED CANVAS BOARD

- Paint the back
- Mist the back and press like a flower with the art protected
- Affix to a flat board to counter the warp

HOW TO FIX THE CANVAS THAT WILL NOT TAKE PAINT

- Flash rinse the front by brushing on a wash or two of water and letting it dry
- Pre Paint the canvas with acrylic white
- Prep with gesso



STEP SEVEN - REPAINTING SURFACES

HOW TO PAINT OVER A USED CANVAS

- Apply gesso on the front of the canvas
- Repaint the front of the canvas if you are able to ignore what is already there
- Sand the surface with extreme caution

You can not repaint acrylic paint over an old oil painting even with the suggestions above.





STEP EIGHT - *BREPAIR A TEAR IN A CANVAS*

HOW TO REPAIR A TORN CANVAS

- Use a Soft Gel Medium
- Use canvas duct tape
- Use gesso

Be sure to wear a mask when performing a repair to a canvas. After you have filled in the tear, carefully sand the surface, then repaint over the torn/damaged area.

I have a whole video on this subject on my website.

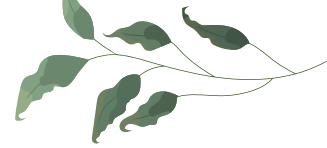
STEP NINE - *ONLINE VS INSTORE*

How you make your art studio purchases is a personal preference, but as you can imagine, I've had lots of experiences both ways, and like everything else, there are pros and cons.

Be sure to shop sales and use coupons; they both pay off.

- Online is easy, but you can get an inferior product or damaged product. I suggest that you order products that you already know and depend on for their experience.
- Instore can be a break or a chore, depending on whether you're in the middle of a piece and run out of Mars Black and need it to finish wet on wet. A real pro to instore is that you can inspect the merchandise you are buying; a con is that you can sometimes pay more.





Q & A SESSION

WHAT IS THE PROPER WAY TO APPLY GESSO?

With a brush, vertically and dry, horizontally and dry, and diagonally and dry.

I AM SEEING OTHER GACS OUT THERE BESIDES GAC 100 (GAC 800, GAC 900, GAC 200). WOULD WE BE LIKELY TO USE ANY OF THE OTHER GACS?

They are not interchangeable in any way.

IS TONED GESSO MORE EXPENSIVE TO BUY THAN WHITE OR BLACK GESSO? AND CAN WE MAKE OUR OWN TONED GESSO FOR A BETTER COST?

Sometimes the cost is better unless there is a clearance as sometimes that is less than the materials.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CANVASES THE DOLLAR TREE AND 5 BELOW STORES ARE SELLING?

I don't know anything about them, but if you do and have an opinion, please share with the Facebook group.

ISN'T GESSO REALLY JUST FOR PREPPING NON-TRADITIONAL CANVAS LIKE WOOD OR PLASTIC?

NO, it provides a tooth for the paint when going over an old painting or preparing a surface that is not otherwise prepared for the application of acrylic paint.

DUCKED CANVAS- WHAT IS DUCK?

Canvas duck is a heftier weight of cotton canvas.

JUST FOUND 'REAL' ARTIST CANVAS . LOVE THE TEXTURE BUT DOES NOT STAY UP, FOLD LIKE THIN LEATHER. BEAUTIFUL. SO WILL NEED BEING STRETCHED ON WOODEN FRAME. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THEM?

It can be done but does require more effort and cost initially because of the tools required.

IF I HAVE A PAD OF PAPER THAT IS NOT "BLOCKED" CAN I BLOCK IT MYSELF?

Yes, with a padding compound.

WHEN WOULD SOMEONE WANT TO USE HOT PRESS SMOOTH? PORTRAITS?

This one here is hot press and it gives level even effects.

I BOUGHT A FREDRICK CANVAS BLOCK BOOK TO USE IS THAT OK?

It totally is.

WHY DOES SOME LOW TACK TAPE RIP WATERCOLOR PAPER OFF THE SURFACE?

Try making it less tacky by pressing the tape against your clothes a couple of times to gunk up the glue.





CAN YOU USE COLD PRESS?

Yes, of course.

DOES GREEN PAINTER AND YELLOW TAPE WORK AS WELL?

Sometimes, but lower the tack by sticking to your clothes a couple of times. You don't want to tear the paper.

COULD I TAPE THIS ON MASONITE BOARD?

Yes you can.

SO WE HAVE TO REMOVE THE SHEET OFF THE BLOCK TO WET THE BACK AND TAPE IT DOWN?

No not at all, I am demoing a loose sheet here and also a watercolor black.

WHAT DOES THE SEALING COAT DO AGAIN?

It stops the paper from being so thirsty.

CAN YOU USE GESSO ON PAPER

Yes you can 100%.

WE STILL NEED TO PREP THE SURFACE OF THE BLOCK PAGE THOUGH?

Yes if you wanted to have it take paint better you would do this on any paper.

IS THIS THE SAME METHOD FOR GESSOING CANVAS?

Pretty much minus the GAC 100 - at least 3 coats of gesso.

WHAT IS AN ART JOURNAL?

An art journal is a bound book with blank paper for art; art journal artist create artworks in the book all pages all sides when they are done they are stunning.

WOULD MASKS USED TO PROTECT AGAINST COVID19 WORK TOO?

Yes they are perfect for it.

CAN YOU SHARE HOW TO PREP A WOODEN SLICE? AND CAN I USE LIQUITEX GLOSS MEDIUM AND VARNISH TO SEAL IT?

YES it can be a little different - I like clear gesso for wood but you can also do the left side for the wood.

DO YOU NEED SEPARATE BRUSHES FOR GESSO AND THE GAC? IF SO WHAT BRUSHES ARE BEST?

I use wide flats for gesso and GAC and clean them well after.

WHAT DO YOU USE TO TINT GESSO TO ANOTHER COLOR?

I like high flow inks, they work a lot like food coloring in the gesso very powerful; I would do research and some testing some dyes fade or may bleed through to the paint above it.

IS THE BLOOMING ONLY ON PAPER?

Yes only on paper as on canvas this much water can impair the paint binding or sticking.

OK SO IF YOU CLEAR GESSO OVER AN OIL PAINTING COULD YOU ACRYLIC OVER IT?

No. Gesso will not prep an oil painting for acrylic.

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