



Using Alcohol Ink as a patina

By Janet Alexander

What is Alcohol Ink?



Alcohol ink is a permanent acid-free transparent ink that dries quickly. Alcohol inks adhere easily to a variety of materials including acrylic, plastic, metal, foil, glass, and many non-porous surfaces. I use the Adirondack® Alcohol Inks and blending solution. They come in a variety of colors with some unusual names, like stream, latte, eggplant, etc.

Instructions

I don't use these inks the way the manufacture teaches, using stamps to apply the ink. I use them as if they were watercolor paints with the blending solution as the water.

Before applying the ink to the metal, if the metal is fired metal clay, tumble it first. This closes the pores of the metal. Sometimes when the ink is applied it soaks into the metal clay metal making its color disappear. Burnishing the metal keeps this from happening. If your piece is made from sheet metal or cast metal, tumbling is not necessary.

Completely finish your piece. All polishing should be completed before applying the ink. If using liver of sulfur or Silver Black, to add dark lines or black shading to your work, do so before applying the ink

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In these examples Silver Black was used to darken areas to give added depth to the pieces.



Applying the ink without the black is just as beautiful.



I place a few drops of one color into a watercolor dish. I store it there with the dish sealed in a plastic bag when not using.

Additionally, I have one brush for each color and label the brush with the color's name. This way I don't waste blending solution cleaning the brush.

NOTE: Wipe the bottle tip off before attaching the top or it may become stuck.



When I am ready to use the ink, I add one or two drops of blending solution to the color. The more blending solution the lighter the color.



I paint my color onto the pendant using the brush.

Lighten the color, by adding blending solution. Mix other colors right on the metal, just like watercolor painting!



Remove unwanted ink by wetting a paper towel or Q-tip with blending solution and wipe.



Paint with Permalac or a thin coat of spray lacquer as a protectant.

Note: any alcohol (rubbing or the blending solution) will remove, or hurt the ink on the jewelry piece. It's best to protect it.