

Use Derwent Inktense Pencils to Color Fabric When Quilting

by Jane Knapp

I am fairly new to using this technique, so I hope I am not misleading anyone. I'm sure with more experience, I will gain new insights.

Inktense Pencils contain ink which becomes permanent after moistening and allowed to dry.

Description from the Derwent company:

“Apply pure, vibrant dry color then wash the pigment out completely to leave an ink-like effect. Once dry, the color is permanent and can be worked over with other media. The possibilities are endless; the results are stunning.”



Supply list:

Derwent Inktense Pencils - in sets of 6, 12, 24, 36, and 72

Michael's (sets of 12 and 24)

Order online from Dick Blick- often on sale at 50%

High quality (high thread count) **WASHED white muslin**

Legacy Studio muslin at Jo-Ann Fabrics

108" wide is the most economical - \$6 per yard at 44/45" ... \$12 per yard at 108"

Moistening agents - water, aloe vera gel, or fabric medium

Clear aloe vera gel (NOT lotion) -

Fruit of the Earth Aloe Vera 100% gel Pure No Color Added in the hand lotion aisle at Walmart (least expensive I've found at about \$4 for 12 oz.)

Fabric medium - thin 1:1 with water. Buy at Michael's or an art supply store.

Fabric brushes - The synthetic brush end is short and stiff. Michael's has a packaged set of 4 in the fabric paint section.

White surface - Cover a white foam board with plastic or a large ziplock bag with the “zipper” cut off. Put a sheet of paper on a clipboard and cover with plastic.

Prepare the design.

Draw your own design.

Use applique designs.

Use a photo to make the design.

Search for a topic under images on the web. Select an appropriate photo which is not copyright protected. Copy it to the desktop. Use a program to resize and crop according to your needs or go to a print shop for enlargements. Print in color or gray scale.

Trace onto fabric using a regular pencil or the Inktense outliner pencil and a lightbox or window. The Inktense set of 72 pencils includes a



non-soluble outliner pencil which allows you to draw outlines that are permanent even when water is applied.

Tape the fabric to a white plastic-covered surface.

Be sure it is taut.

Use Derwent Inktense pencils to color and shade the design.

Make a color guide.

To shade with the pencils, start with the lightest color. Then add medium shades and then darker. Look for the areas where the light shines and where the shadows are.

Color lightly for less color or color over it several times for bolder color. Test first on a scrap of fabric using water or gel. Let dry to see the result.

Use more than one pencil to combine colors.

Color the whole design OR color and moisten the ink as you work on each section.

***Color can also be applied after quilting by coloring with the pencil and then adding moisture.

Add a moistening agent. Clean the brush by wiping on scrap fabric.

Water works great if you can control the amount of water in the brush.

Use different sizes of brushes and stroke from the middle towards the edges.

Tap the brush on scrap fabric before brushing to remove some water.

Use a wet brush on the pencil tip to remove ink for placing in a small amount of water to use for coloring an area until the desired intensity is achieved. Batting seems to minimize the bleeding when applying color AFTER quilting.

Clear aloe vera gel is a moistening agent which will not bleed. Use it sparingly.

You may need to wash and dry and then continue coloring if there is too much gel build-up and color doesn't seem to be penetrating the fabric.

Fabric medium will not bleed and can also be thinned to use to wet the ink. Fabric medium can also be used with watercolor pencils to make the color permanent. However, it may bleed if too thin. It can make the fabric a little stiff, but I haven't used it enough to really critique it.

Dry the fabric and heat set.

The fabric dries quickly using water or gel. Drying can be hastened by ironing using a pressing cloth (muslin) on both sides of the fabric. It can be pressed directly using a dry iron after drying. Heat set for 15 seconds or more. I haven't tested the timing.

Wash and dry the fabric.

Gently wash the fabric by hand in clear water to remove loose dye and gel in a sink or cake pan. Rinse. Pat with paper towels to remove moisture. Air dry or iron dry with a pressing cloth. More color may be added or other surface techniques may be used to alter the fabric.



Quilt

Layer top, batting, and backing and quilt as desired. If you make small quilts, they look nice on stand-up 8" x 10" plastic frames. Make the quilt 1" larger in both dimensions. Add a long sleeve for sliding onto the plastic frame.

Coloring done by neighborhood children going into fifth to tenth grades



Artist Trading Cards made by Jane

