

Use Derwent Inktense Pencils to Color Fabric

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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 at my store and set of 12 online
Order online from Dick Blick (often on sale at 50%) - sets of 12, 24, 36, and 72

High quality (high thread count) **WASHED white muslin** or fabric where you want color

Legacy Studio white muslin at Jo-Ann Fabrics is my preferred fabric.
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. It is the least expensive I've found at about \$4 for 12 oz.

Fabric/textile 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 labeled Art Minds in the fabric paint section. I like the Loew Cornell round and flat fabric painting brushes best which I get at <http://www.dharmatrading.com/cgi-bin/search.cgi?query=fabric+brushes> OR <http://www.hofcraft.com/loew-cornell-fabric-brushes.htm>.

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/reductions. Print in color or gray scale.

Using a lightbox or window trace onto fabric with a regular pencil or the Inktense outliner pencil which will not wash off when wet. Use a fabric eraser to erase the regular pencil lines if you make a mistake.



Tape the fabric to a white plastic-covered surface. Be sure it is taut.

Blue painter's tape would be best, but masking tape will work as long as it is not left on the fabric for very long.

Use Derwent Inktense pencils to color and shade the design.

Make a color guide and/or use this guide which includes a light fastness rating for each color: Search the web for Derwent inktense color chart from the company in the U.K. (pencils.co.uk).

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/lighter tint 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 or paper towel.

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.

The fabric dries quickly after 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. It doesn't need to be heat set. When it is dry, it is permanent.

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. Excess color may come off on the paper towel. Air dry or iron dry with pressing cloths on both sides. 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. Before binding add a long sleeve for sliding onto the plastic frame. Cut the quilt 8.75" x 10.5" for this size frame before attaching binding.

Coloring done by neighborhood children ages 7 - 15



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