

PRO Silk & Fabric Paint

Please read directions carefully before starting.

The PRO Silk & Fabric Paints are easy to use, non-toxic, water-based pigments. They are specially designed for doing silk painting and watercolor techniques, using pigments instead of dyes. These paints can be used on both silk and cotton fabrics. Heat setting is recommended for permanence. Always do test samples before working on a large project. Please visit our web site: www.prochemicalanddye.com for additional ways of using these paints and other products.

- ✘ Wear rubber gloves, apron or old clothes.
- ✘ Utensils used for dyeing should never be used for food preparation.

Optional Supplies

Starburst Salt

Sabra Silk Resist

Stir paints well, before using.

Silk Painting Procedure

1. Scour your fabric by machine washing in HOT 140°F (60°C) water, or by hand as HOT as possible with laundry detergent or try our Perfect Wash to get your fabric the cleanest: use ½ tsp (2 gm) PRO Dye Activator and ½ tsp (2.5 ml) Synthrapol per pound of fabric (454 gm, or 3 to 4 yards muslin, or 8 yards of 8mm China Silk). Rinse thoroughly, dry and iron as necessary.

2. Transfer the design to your fabric using a soft pencil. You may want to draw your design freehand or use a light table to help you transfer the design. You can also use a window or sliding glass door. Tape the pattern to the glass surface; then tape the fabric over the pattern.

3. Stretch your silk prior to painting. There are a number of frames available on the market for use in silk painting OR you can make your own from artist stretcher frames and stainless steel pushpins. First pin the four corners, then the middle of the four sides, pulling the fabric taut. You can avoid stretch lines by staggering the placement of the pushpins and not placing them directly across from one another. Continue placing pins every 2 - 3 inches apart, around all four sides, always working from the center outward to the corners.

4. Apply the resist lines, using the Sabra Silk Resist. Press the applicator tip firmly against the stretched fabric. It is important to maintain an even flow and continuous line as you trace the design. PRO Silk & Fabric Paints will flow through any gaps in the resist line. Check the back of your fabric to make sure that the resist has penetrated all the way through. If you see any gaps, fill them in from the front. You may need to apply the resist on both sides of heavy fabric. Once you've outlined your design, let the resist dry and follow the steps below, according to the resist you have chosen.

Sabra Silk Resist

The Sabra Silk Resist is also water based. It is applied from the applicator bottle, following the lines of your design. After it is dry, you can begin painting with the Setasilk.

5. Paint with PRO Silk & Fabric Paints once the gutta resist lines are dry. Fill a wide mouth container with water; use this to rinse your brushes. The size of the area you are about to paint will determine what size brush you need. Use a small brush for small areas and a larger brush to cover bigger areas. Dip your brush into the container of PRO Silk & Fabric Paints and lightly touch the brush to the center of the area you are painting. Allow the color to spread out to the resist lines. Continue adding PRO Silk & Fabric Paints and blending brush strokes or colors while the PRO Silk & Fabric Paints is still wet and until the enclosed area is filled. Work quickly to prevent the PRO Silk & Fabric Paints from drying before you have all the color applied to an area. Be careful not to flood the fabric with too much PRO Silk & Fabric Paints, or the resist lines will break. Use a cotton swab or dry brush to mop extra paint that pools in an enclosed area. Do not paint over the resist lines.

Add visual texture to your silk painting with some of the pattern techniques below.

- ◆ Work “wet on wet” for fluid shading and harmonious color blending.
- ◆ A dark-edged ring is characteristic of applying paint to a dry painted area. This is known as a “wet on dry” patterning technique.
- ◆ Sprinkle Starburst Salt onto freshly painted wet silk for star burst explosions. As soon as the fabric is dry, brush off the salt.

6. Fix the painted silk by allowing it to air dry. The silk then needs to be heat set with a dry iron in order for the colors to be permanent. Set the iron to the "SILK" setting. Using a press cloth between the iron and the fabric, iron on the reverse side of the silk for 3-5 minutes.

7. For the final wash, wait 48 hours before removing the Sabra Silk Resist, by gently washing in warm 110°F (43°C) water.

Painting Cotton Fabric

There are two ways that you can use the PRO Silk & Fabric Paints on cotton: painted directly on dry fabric or working on damp fabric. When you paint directly on dry fabric, the colors will have a more crisp and solid edge. When you work on damp fabric, also known as “wet on wet”, the colors will move more like when using watercolor paints. This enables you to layer colors and do gradations with smooth transitions.

Once the fabric is painted, allow it to dry. The cotton then needs to be heat set with a dry iron in order for the colors to be permanent. Set the iron to the "COTTON" setting. Using a press cloth between the iron and the fabric, iron on the reverse side of the cotton for 3-5 minutes.