

AN INTRODUCTION TO ACRYLIC MEDIUMS

Acrylic Mediums are made from 100% acrylic polymer emulsion and dry to form a durable surface. Mediums are added to acrylic paint to alter their characteristics and produce a variety of effects from glazing to building textures. They are available in student, mid-grade and professional quality.

Opus encourages you to experiment with and combine different mediums to become more familiar with their properties. If you are interested in more detailed information on any of the following products please ask our knowledgeable staff.

GOLDEN MEDIUMS

GOLDEN offers a variety of professional quality gel mediums, liquid mediums, varnishes, special use polymers and additives. The following is a list of some GOLDEN Mediums which Opus carries that can be mixed with many acrylic paint colours of comparable quality.

Soft Gels: excellent for glazing; maintains viscosity of thick acrylic paints.

Heavy Gels: increases the body of paint, excellent for holding peaks, and dries translucent.

High Solid Gels: helps to retain brush strokes, *Gloss Gel* offers higher gloss and less shrinkage whereas *Matte Gel* dries to a cloudy, wax like finish.

Clear Tar Gels: useful for producing fine detailed lines, allows the paint to flow continuously from palette knives and other tools. Blends well with all acrylic colours, particularly fluid acrylics.

Pumice Gels: create a variety of gritty textures that dry to hard films. *Fine Pumice Gel* creates fine textured surfaces that can be used as a ground for pastels. *Coarse* and *Extra Coarse Pumice Gel* yield concrete like finishes.

Molding Paste: dries to a hard opaque film, holds stiff peaks.

Polymer Medium (Gloss): liquid medium useful for glazing, extending colours, enhancing gloss and translucency.



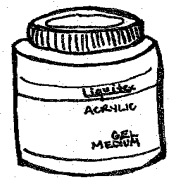
Matte Medium: pourable medium useful for decreasing gloss, may be used as a ground instead of gesso.

Acrylic Flow Release: used to reduce surface tension of the water in acrylic paint, therefore increasing the slickness and flow of the paint. Health Labeled Product: Not For Use By Children.

GAC Special Purpose Acrylic Polymers: GAC 200 increases the film hardness of acrylic paints and is ideal for use on rigid and nonporous surfaces. It dries to a clear, high gloss finish. GAC 500 is a self-leveling medium good for both film hardness and flexibility. GAC 700 is the "polymer of choice" for achieving film clarity and transparency.

LIQUITEX MEDIUMS

LIQUITEX also offers a variety of professional quality mediums to be used with acrylic paints, and they are available in different viscosity's (low, medium, high, extra high) and sheens (gloss and matte). LIQUITEX mediums can be mixed into acrylic colours to change paint consistency, thickness, transparency, drying rate, sheen, absorption rate and texture.



Iridescent/Pearlescent Tinting Medium: produces a range of iridescent or metallic colours, dries translucent.

Jarpace: Matte Opaque Extender Film: increases the volume of paint while maintaining the opacity of the colour.

Gelex: Matte Opaque Extender Gel Medium: translucent white gel which economically extends the volume of *High Viscosity Artist Colours*.

Liquithick Gel Acrylic Thickener: thickening gel for acrylic paints and mediums which, when used in small amounts, produces handling characteristics very close to that of oil or encaustic paint.

Black Lava: black speckled gel which when dry gives the effect of ground, dry, black lava. Use with transparent or translucent colours for best results.

Blended Fibres: thick, stringy, fibrous gel which gives the effect of flexible fibres when dry. Works best when applied with a palette knife or trowel.

Ceramic Stucco: thick yet fine textured gel which dries to a light gray matte stucco finish.

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Glass Beads: medium body gel containing translucent plastic aggregates which dries to a semi-gloss reflective surface.

Light Modeling Paste: lightweight, flexible sculptural gel formulated to be used in applications where weight is a factor.

Natural Sand: finely textured gel which dries to a surface similar to glossy "beach sand".

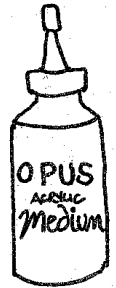
Resin Sand: thick, coarse texture gel which contains aggregates of various sizes, dries to a "rough cement" look.

White Opaque Flakes: heavy body, coarse gel contains irregular sized and shaped opaque flakes.



Modeling Paste: compound made of acrylic emulsion and marble dust, excellent for creating a variety of shapes or textures.

Acrylic Retarder: used for extending the drying time of acrylic paints, clear with a smooth consistency.



OPUS MEDIUM

Acrylic Medium: mix with your acrylic paints for added gloss, as an extender for acrylic colours, or as glazing or gluing agent for collage. This is a good student quality medium.

STEVENSON MEDIUMS

OPUS carries a variety of STEVENSON mid-grade mediums which are made in Canada. These mediums are available in matte or gloss finish and are more economical in price than the high-end mediums produced by LIQUITEX and GOLDEN.

Matte Medium: used as an extender or gluing agent, this medium dries to a milky matte finish.

Acrylic Gel: medium bodied gel used for transparent textures, impastos and glazes. Available in gloss or matte.

Impasto Gel: thick bodied gel used for impasto techniques, like many mediums it dries clear though milky when wet.



ACRYLIC GESSO

Today acrylic gesso is the most commonly used primer for painting supports, for either oil or acrylic. Acrylic gesso is not a true gesso but is generally referred to as if it is. Acrylic gesso is a great all-purpose primer which will stick to almost any surface. It dries quickly to create a strong and flexible surface which will not crack or become brittle. Once dry, acrylic gesso resists water and moisture which alleviates the need for preliminary sizing. Acrylic gesso is non-toxic and easy to use. For acrylic paints, a couple of coats of gesso are necessary, however, when using oil paints further coats are needed to ensure proper coverage of your painting support. GOLDEN, STEVENSON and OPUS all produce acrylic gesso.



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