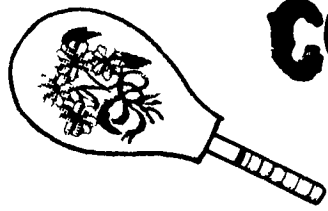


# CRAFT CORNER



## Acrylic paint on fabrics

By Wendie R. Blanchard  
Copley News Service

to standards for fade resistance, quality and health.

The desire to coordinate curtains with walls, towels with tiles, or bedspreads with rugs is bringing decorators as well as crafters into their local paint stores searching for suitable paints.

Acrylic colors contain pigments that allow the paint to appear opaque, translucent or transparent. This quality enables the user to block out a dark background color or work in combination with the background color for a blended effect.

This, along with the growing popularity of stenciling on anything from ceramics to walls and almost everything in between, has sparked many questions from readers asking what paints are best suited to fabrics. Many of these questions will be answered in this week's column.

Unlike fabric dyes and some textile paints that are compatible only with specific fabrics, acrylics are suitable for most natural and synthetic fabrics as well as blended, woven, knitted and felted fabrics. Suede and leather surfaces also can be painted with acrylics.

Most of the paints recommended for use with precut stencils are acrylic paints. Acrylic paint is recommended because it is an excellent water-base paint for almost any surface.

Choosing the right technique to apply paint depends on the fabric. Paint should be thinned to retain the feel of the cloth for lightweight, textured surfaces like terry cloth or T-shirt fabric. Heavier, thicker fabrics like canvas or leather will take a thicker application of paint and still retain their flexibility.

Especially suited for fabrics, the paint coats the material fibers evenly when wet and dries to a durable and flexible surface. Because the paint is water-based it dries by evaporation and therefore does not require heat, steam or chemical fixing for permanency. In addition, acrylic paints conform

of the techniques used.

-Prewash the fabric to remove sizing finish and to check shrinkage.

-Complete the painting and clean a test piece of fabric to determine the compatibility of the cloth with the technique.

-For permanency, the paints always should penetrate the fibers and should not lie on the surface of the cloth.

-Before cleaning, let the paint set and dry for at least 24 hours.

-Acrylic paint has a synthetic binder that allows it to be hand-washed, machine washed or dry cleaned. However, you should not let it soak in hot water or wash it with a cycle that has a lot of agitation, as some of the paint could be released from the fibers.

-Dry fabric in the dryer on warm perma-press cycle for no more than 10 to 30 minutes.

-Iron painted fabrics on a low (synthetic) setting only. Use a pressing cloth or iron on the reverse side of the fabric.

Binney & Smith has a four-page technique sheet that answers questions and gives tips on how to work with acrylic paints. For a copy of this free leaflet, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Binney & Smith, Consumer Affairs Department, 110 Church Lane, Box 431 MIY, Easton, PA 18042.

Note: Canadian residents enclose a self-addressed envelope to The Craft Network, RD 5, Box 650, Newton, NJ 07860.

## NJ 4-H'ers get a close look at political process

FLEMINGTON, NJ - Kimberly Crommelin recently attended Citizenship-Washington Focus - a citizenship and leadership training program at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. Kim

was among 46 4-H members from New Jersey and 45 other states who participated in the summer program.

Citizenship-Washington Focus is designed to help young people understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens and increase appreciation of their American heritage. Throughout the week the teenage participants took field trips to historical and cultural sites, visited federal agencies and community organizations and learned about government procedures.

On Wednesday, July 3rd, they spent the day on Capitol Hill to get a close-up view of the political process and to meet with members of Congress.

They met with Sen. Bill Bradley's and Congressman Dean Gallo's aides to discuss some of the issues facing New Jersey and the nation today. During the week they also visited the Kennedy Center, Arlington Cemetery, Washington Cathedral, and various agencies and organizations.

In workshop sessions at National 4-H Center, the young people learned and practiced life skills, discussed and debated legislative issues and policies, proposed possible solutions to domestic and international concerns, and held simulated senate hearings and county council meetings. They also developed a plan to incorporate

what they learned into ongoing 4-H programs in their home communities.

During a citizenship workshop they learned about others, what we have in common (i.e. concerns, background, admired people) and why we all feel the same about certain concerns. A workshop called "We'll Be Surprised" taught different types of communication skills.

Global Village was a workshop in which they increased their understanding of global interdependence. Kim plans to use her new skills through talks and presentations before various 4-H groups.

Kim believes one of the best parts of her experience was sharing ideas with other 4-H members from across the county. She spent time finding out about 4-H programs in other states.

Kim was selected to attend on the basis of her involvement in 4-H over the past six years. Her trip was funded by the Hunterdon 4-H Sheep Club, the Junior Leader's Association and the Hunterdon County 4-H Association.

Other 4-H'ers attending from Hunterdon County were Michelle Fugazzi, Becky Alpaugh, and David Hunt.

Any 4-H'ers who are interested in attending Citizenship-Washington Focus program next summer or want additional information about 4-H to write or call their County Extension office.



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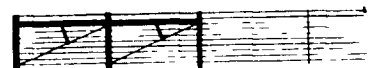
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