

Dear Readers,

After a few tough weeks with endless work, a trade show and catching up on the return, there are still so many positives besides work. The weather has improved, we just had a long weekend, the garden is planted and my wife and I have been able to golf quite a bit.

This has been a crazy past 2 months with lots of product testing and development. It's a slow and tedious process but rewards are worth the wait and work. We're introducing a new pigment, we have new dyes in the works and screening products have exploded.

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate one of our teachers, Rita Lange for delivering a healthy baby boy last week.. Three weeks early, it did throw a kink into her planned workshop this past weekend. We'll be sure to reschedule once "mom" is ready.

Have a great summer!

Dixon

Product profile: G&S Pigment System plus NEW Organic Pigments.

G&S Pigment System

G&S Pigments are often over looked because they appear to be more complicated than the ready-made paints by Pebeo and Jacquard. But for artists who want complete control over their colours, these "mix-your-own paints" are actually ideal. They are versatile, inexpensive and, with a little explanation, easy to use.

What can you do with our G&S Pigments? For starters, you can paint, screen print, block print or water them down and spray them onto fabric. In order to make your fabric paint, pigments must first be mixed with a transparent base ("fabric medium"). Using the pigments alone will give very poor results.

Depending on the colour and intensity, you will need about 30mL of pigment to mix half a quart of paint. Since you are mixing colours from pure pigments, you can control how much, what intensity and what mixture you would like to create your custom colours. With a little practice, an enormous range of colours can be achieved from just the basic primaries.

Aside from their versatility, there are noticeable savings with the G&S Pigment System. A quart of transparent base is \$10.00. One ounce of pigment (about 30mL) generally costs only four to five dollars. In comparison, a quart of Setacolor Transparent paint is \$49.95.

In terms of quality, I'll be the first to admit, that Pebeo Setacolor is softer fabric

paint. This is especially important on fine fabrics like silk. However, on cotton, linen or rayon, the difference in feel is less of an issue. For the savings in cost and the versatility of the product, G&S Pigment system is certainly worth a try for your next painting project.

Setting fabric paints

Fabric paints are known for their easy setting capabilities, but there is always confusion when instructions mention setting with an iron for 3-5 minutes. That is a LONG time. Hopefully the following guidelines will clarify the issue.

These general instructions are compatible with our three brands of fabric paints: Pebeo Setacolor, G&S Liquid Colours and our own G&S Pigment System.

1) Using an iron on a low cotton setting, iron the painted fabric for about 30-60 seconds. What you are trying to do is evaporate the moisture out of the paint and fabric to create a good seal and fix. Usually after properly fixing the paint, you will notice that the paint will darken briefly and there will be smoothness to the finish of the colour. The paint will return to its normal colour when cooled.

2) In our G&S Pigment System, there is a product called RESFIX. This is a chemical that helps air cure the paints with minimal heat (i.e.: household dryer). When used with ironing as described above, the paints are extremely solid and wash fast. I recommend adding Resfix all the time because of its benefits. You will only need to add a few drops into the paints. It isn't recommended to pre-mix your paints with RESFIX too soon before use as Resfix can limit your shelf life (about 1 month).

Breaking News: We have just finished testing a NEW line of 100% solvent free, organic pigments, made by Bayer in Germany. These pigments have shown excellent quality and have little or no odor. We are clearing out our existing line and will phase in the new colours a few at a time. Although they will be a little more expensive, the quality, safety and yield are worth the price.

New products:

Lightweight linen: We have added a new, lightweight linen to our line of fabrics. This gorgeous fabric is perfect for making summer shirts, scarves and skirts. It is a 100% linen, 49" wide and bleached white. For ordering purposes, the code number is L1004. Our price is \$13.95/yd

New organic white pigment: The first colour in our transition to 100% solvent free, organic pigments for our Pigment System. Although the price will go up slightly, the quality of these pigments is unrivaled. We expect to introduce the new black shortly with more colours to follow. Look for great clear out deals on the existing pigments.

White Pigment
30mL \$4.50
120mL \$11.50
250mL \$19.95
900mL \$53.65

Black Pigment
30mL \$4.50
120mL \$11.50
250mL \$19.95
1.0L \$53.65

Remember you still need Transparent Base to mix with the pigments. You need about 30-60mL pigment for ever 900mL of Base depending on the intensity and which pigment colour.

Premixed Opaque Inks: With so much demand for printing on dark fabrics and shirts, we've now introduced a pre-mixed line of Opaque Inks. They are available in three sizes and come in white, red, yellow and blue. They can be further intermixed to produce a larger colour range.

8oz (235mL) \$8.00
1 quart (900mL) \$25.00
2 quarts (1.8L) \$40.00

NEW SCREEN PRINTING SUPPLIES

Screen Printing has taken off with more and more people setting up small print shops everywhere. In order to accommodate the needs of these small operations, we have expanded our line of screen and squeegees. For those outside Toronto, all of these items can easily be shipped.

New 12"x16" aluminum screens: Our new pre-stretched 20" x 24" aluminum screens have received incredible positive feedback. To accommodate smaller images, we have introduced another size. Measuring 12"x16" outside dimension, this screen can easily handle 7.5"x 11" images. You will need an 8" squeegee for printing and 9.25" coater if you plan to use emulsion. Our price is \$30.00/screen for either 110 or 160 mesh counts.

Blocking Agent & Drawing Fluid: This simple, three step process allows you to make a screen without the extra steps and equipment of using Photo Emulsion. Although it is not ideal for complex images (text and fine line work), it is still easier and faster than exposing with lights.

Step 1: draw your image onto a clean silk screen with drawing fluid. Leave to

dry.

Step 2: put a bead of blocking agent across the top of the screen. Make sure you have enough. Using a squeegee, spread a smooth coat across the screen.

Allow to dry.

Step 3: Spray your screen with a garden hose, concentrating the spray on the areas with the Drawing Fluid. It should come off easily. Once dry, your screen is ready to print with!

Another use for blocking agent is to fill in pinholes when you expose a screen with photo emulsion.

Both Blocking Agent and Drawing Fluid are \$9.95 for 8oz and \$29.95 for a quart.

new “student-grade” squeegees: Our regular squeegee is solidly built and will last years. Those starting out may wish to have a simpler, lighter squeegee for the occasional print job. About 40% less than our “full size” pro units. These are wooden handles with a softer 50 durometer blade. Our pro squeegees have a larger wood handle and a durable urethane – 65 durometer.

Student Grade

8” \$14.50

10” \$18.00

14” \$25.00

Pro Grade

8” \$24.00

10” \$30.00

15” \$45.00

Screen printing manual: It’s free online!!!!!! Or you can purchase it for \$3.00 at the store.

<http://www.gsdye.com/Canada/Screening.html>

Chinese Brocades: Although slightly delayed by a backlog in the Vancouver seaport, we expect a complete selection of brocades again in mid July with an updated web site. Remember to check them out at:

http://www.gsdye.com/Canada/chinese_brocade.html

Silk painting: Fashion and Fine Art by Susan Louise Moyer – This fantastic book is back in print! Going beyond the basics, Moyer provides great information on designing for garments, color theory, and finishing techniques plus instructions on wax resist, screen printing and caring for your silks. A great intermediate and advanced book \$42.95

Silk Painting: Gutta and Wax Resist – This is Susan Moyer’s first book and still hands down the best Silk painting book. Unfortunately it is out of print, but we still have some stock. Get them while you can! \$42.95

**August “One week” sale
it’s coming...mark your calendars
...August 23 –28th, 2004**

If you’re wondering what the sale items are...like past years, it’s basically everything in the store!! Exact deals and discounts will be posted in the first week of August on our web site and in an email newsletter that I’ll be sending out.

In the meantime, we have some deals in case you wish to shop a little earlier. These prices are in effect until August 14th, 2004

- Introductory sale on the new lightweight linen L1004. Reg. \$13.95/yd, on sale for \$9.95/yd
- Chinese Brocades – Reg. \$19.95/yd...on sale for \$15.95/yd
- Existing Pigments from the Pigment System– 50% off (the August sale price won’t even be this low). This sale excludes the new pre-mix opaque ink, Transparent Base and the new organic pigments.

Random Acts of Kindness

As always, we give out of free stuff to unsuspecting readers. This month, the winners are:

Niki Tobin, Cornerbrook, NFLD

And

Lesley Anne Turner, Calgary, Alberta

They have won a \$25 gift certificate from our store, which can be used for either mail order or retail. Please email me your full address and phone number and I’ll send off the gift